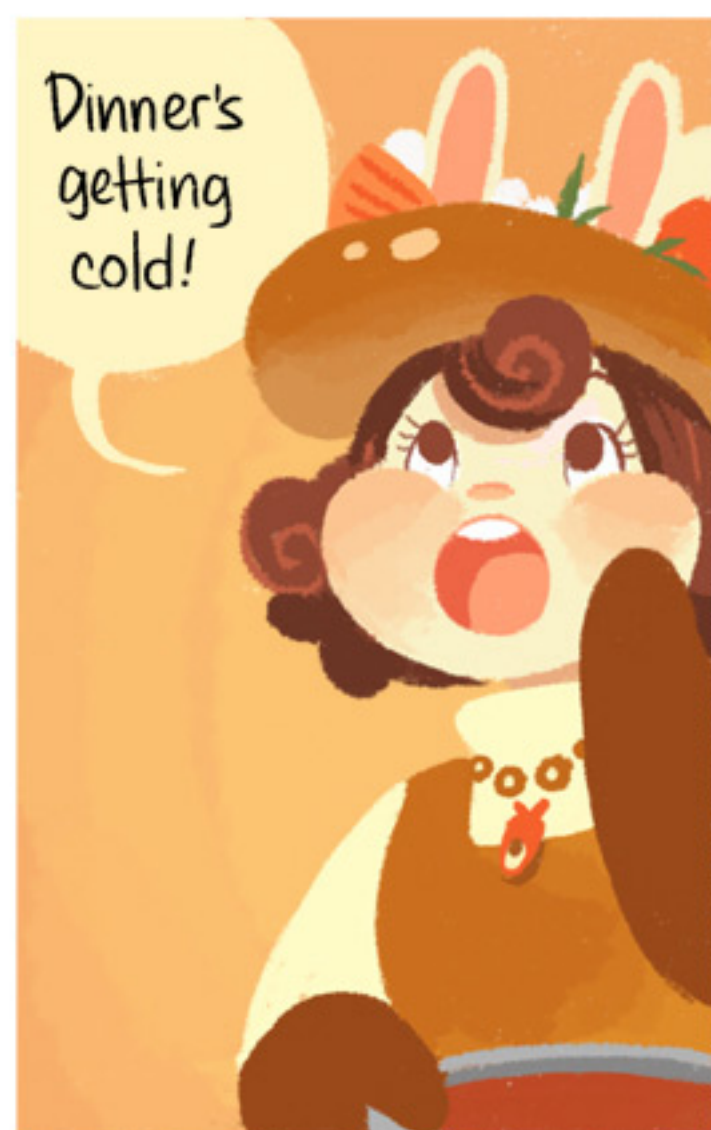
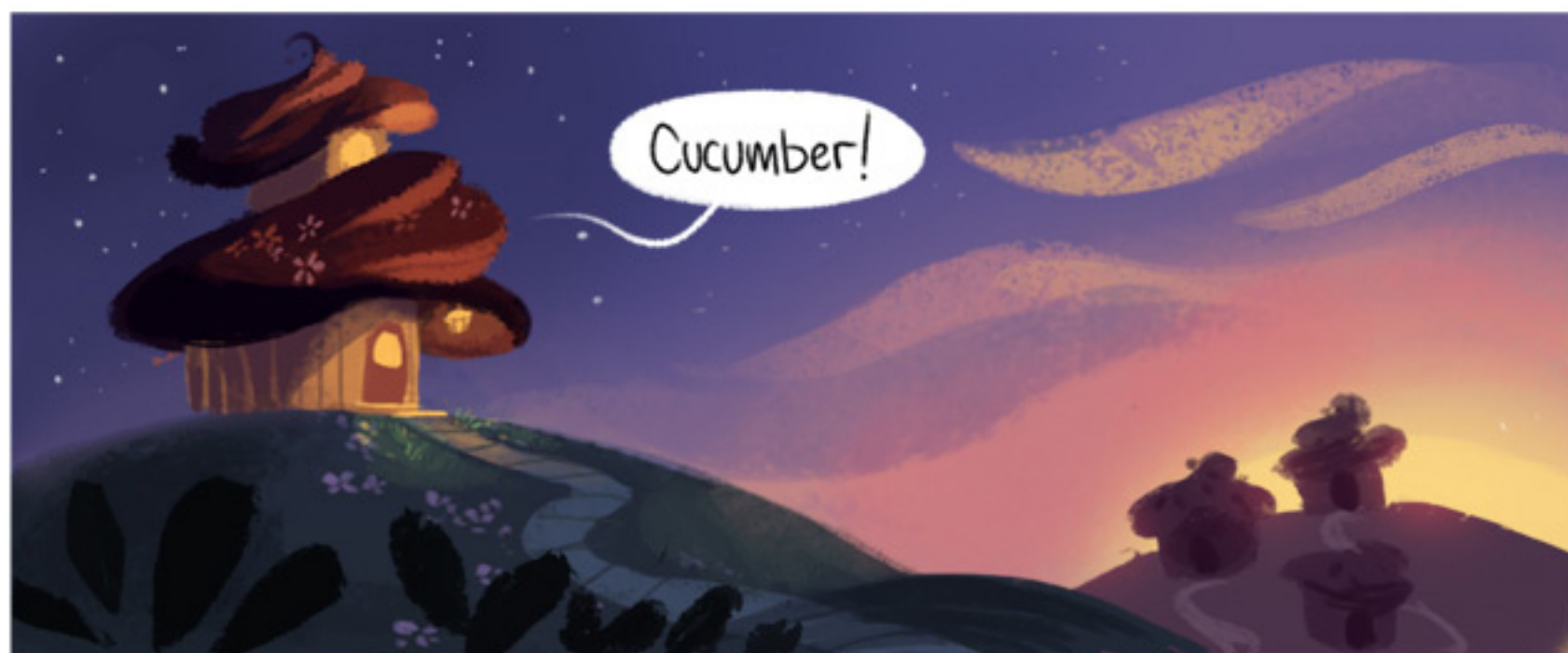




PROLOGUE

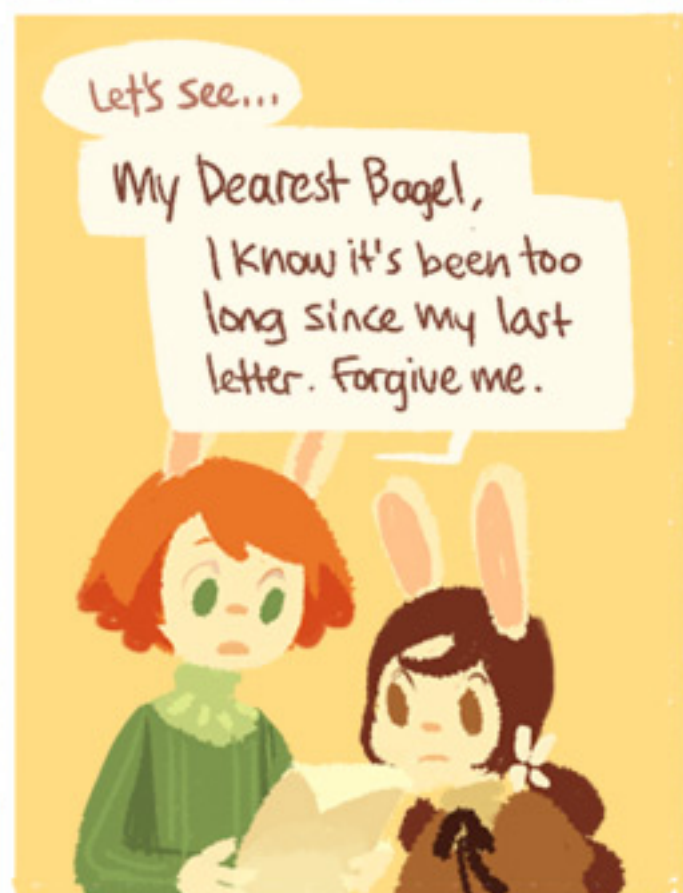
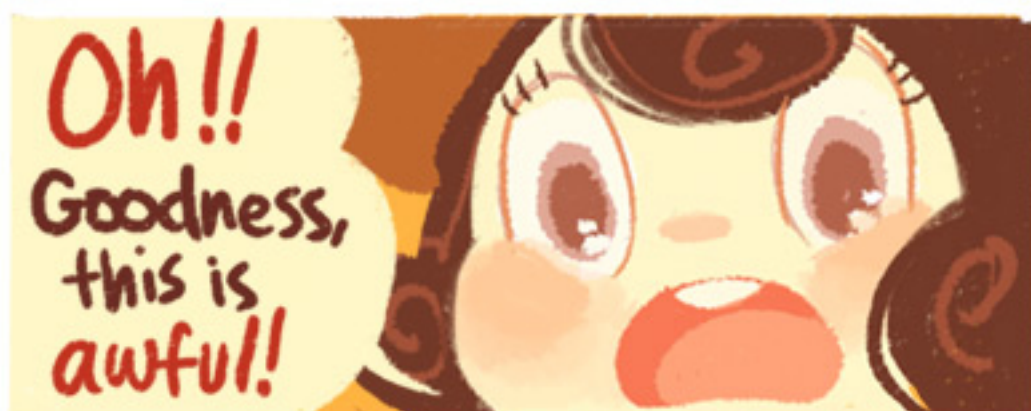
Thanks, Mom and Dad!











Dark times have
befallen our peaceful
Doughnut Kingdom.

Caketown Castle has
been seized by the
evil Queen Cordelia
and her henchmen.

Their goal is...

World
domination!

Please, you must send
our son at once.



Only Cucumber can
put an end to this.

The time has come
for him to become
a man.



W-What?!

What is
this?!



It's terrible
news, dear!



Didn't you read it?
World domination!



Well, yeah,
but!

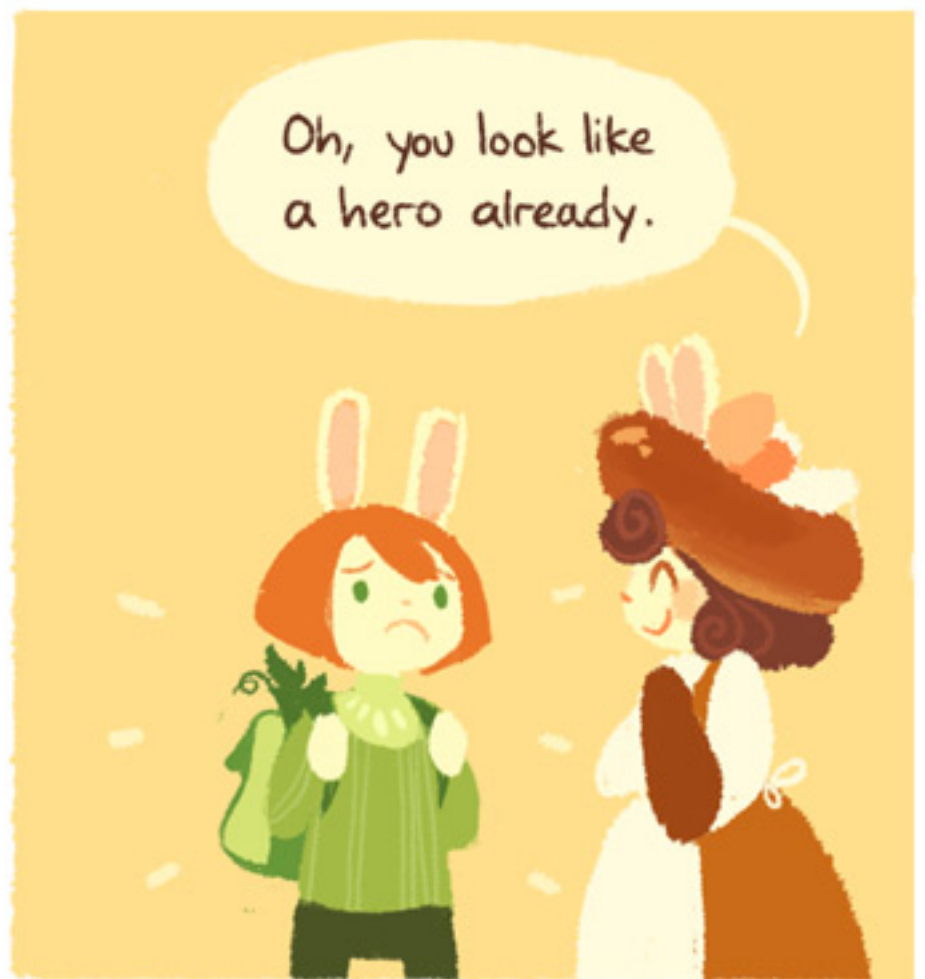
Why me?

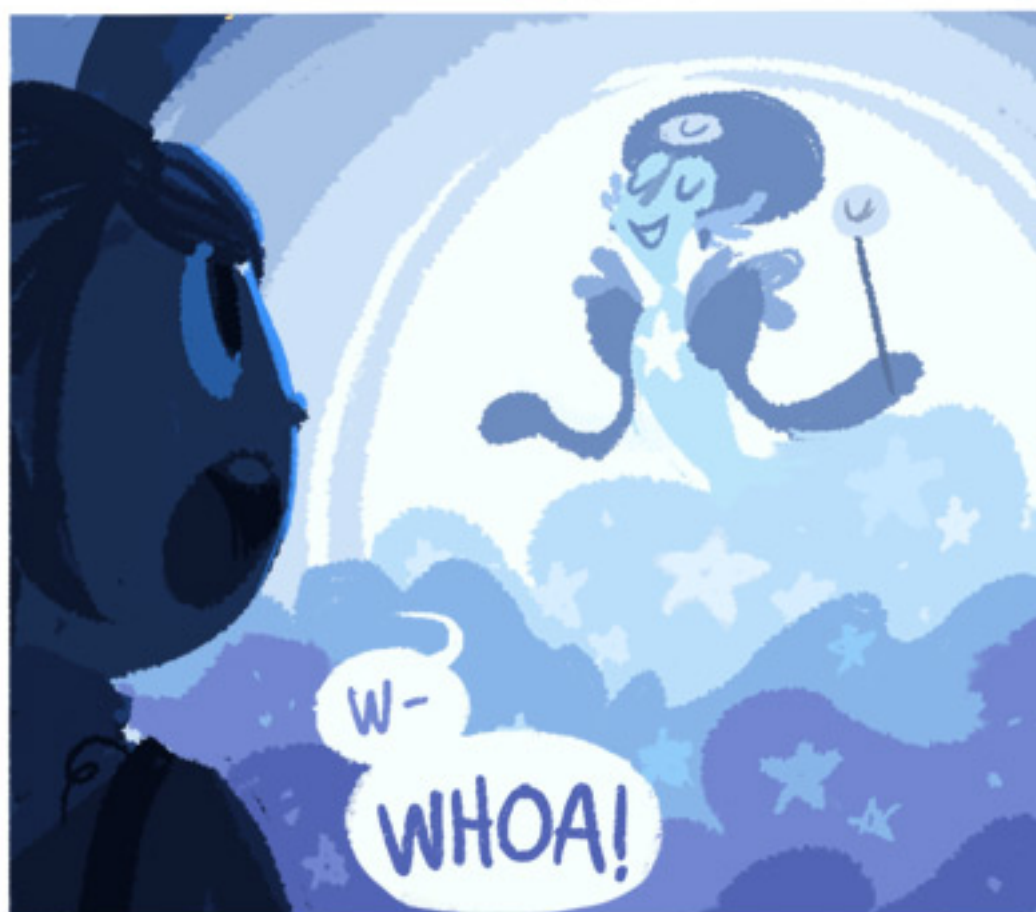
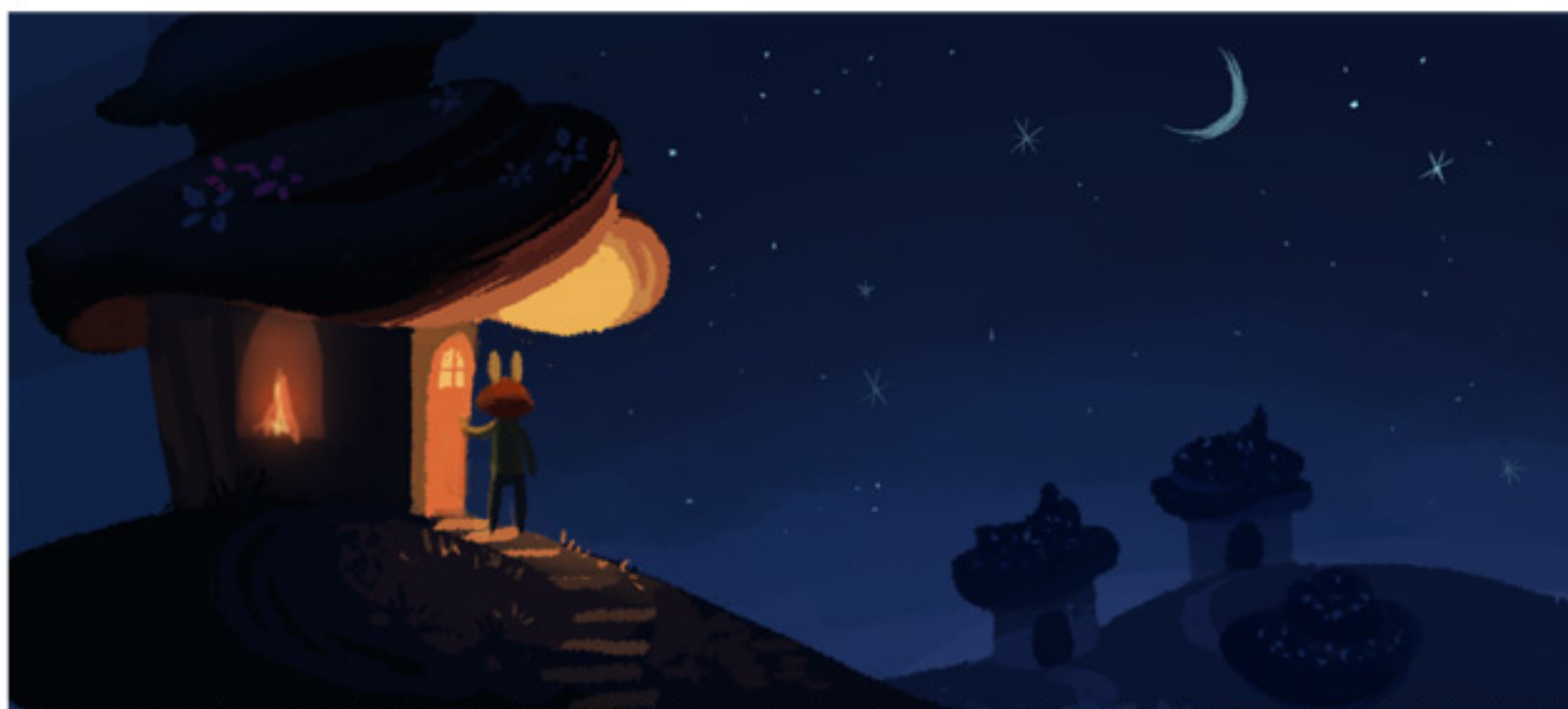


Doesn't Dad
know I'm
moving to
school
tomorrow?







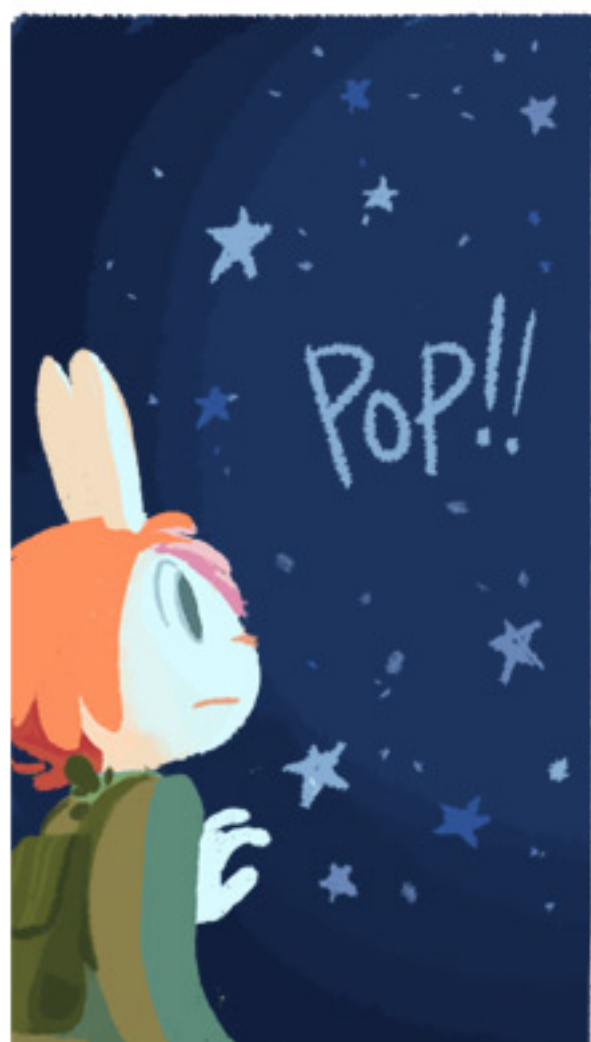


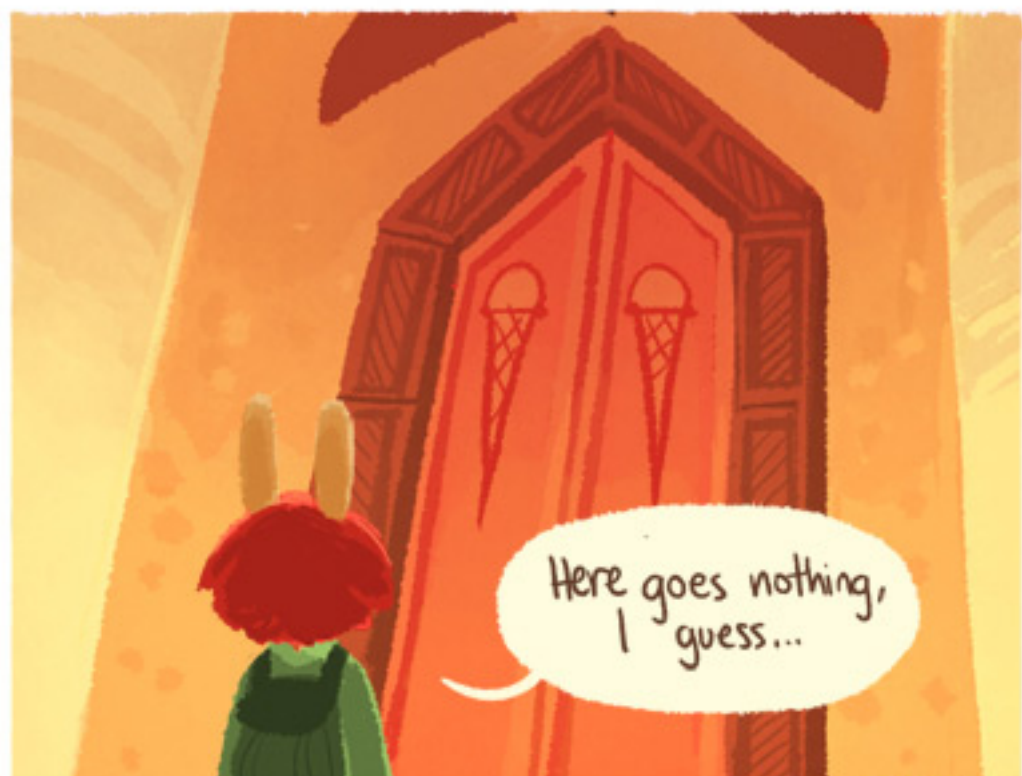
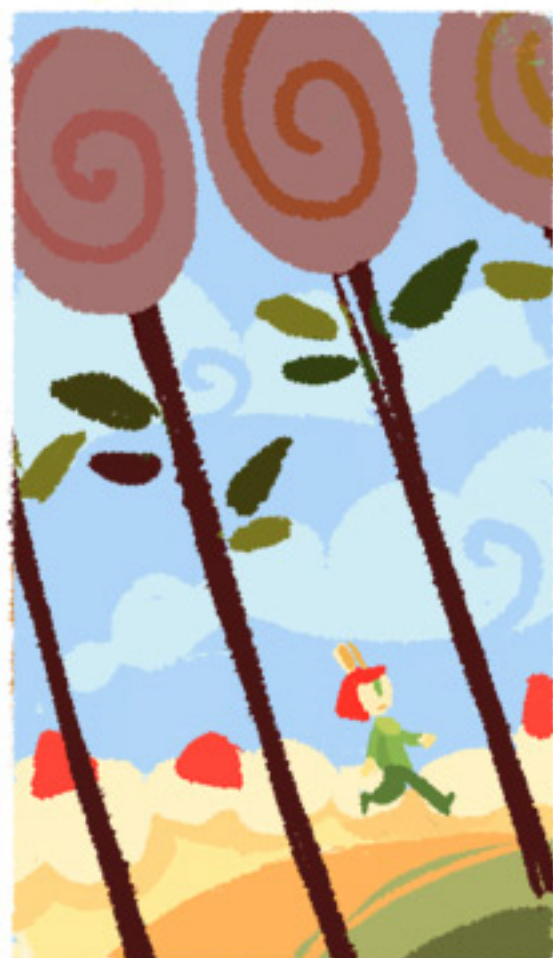
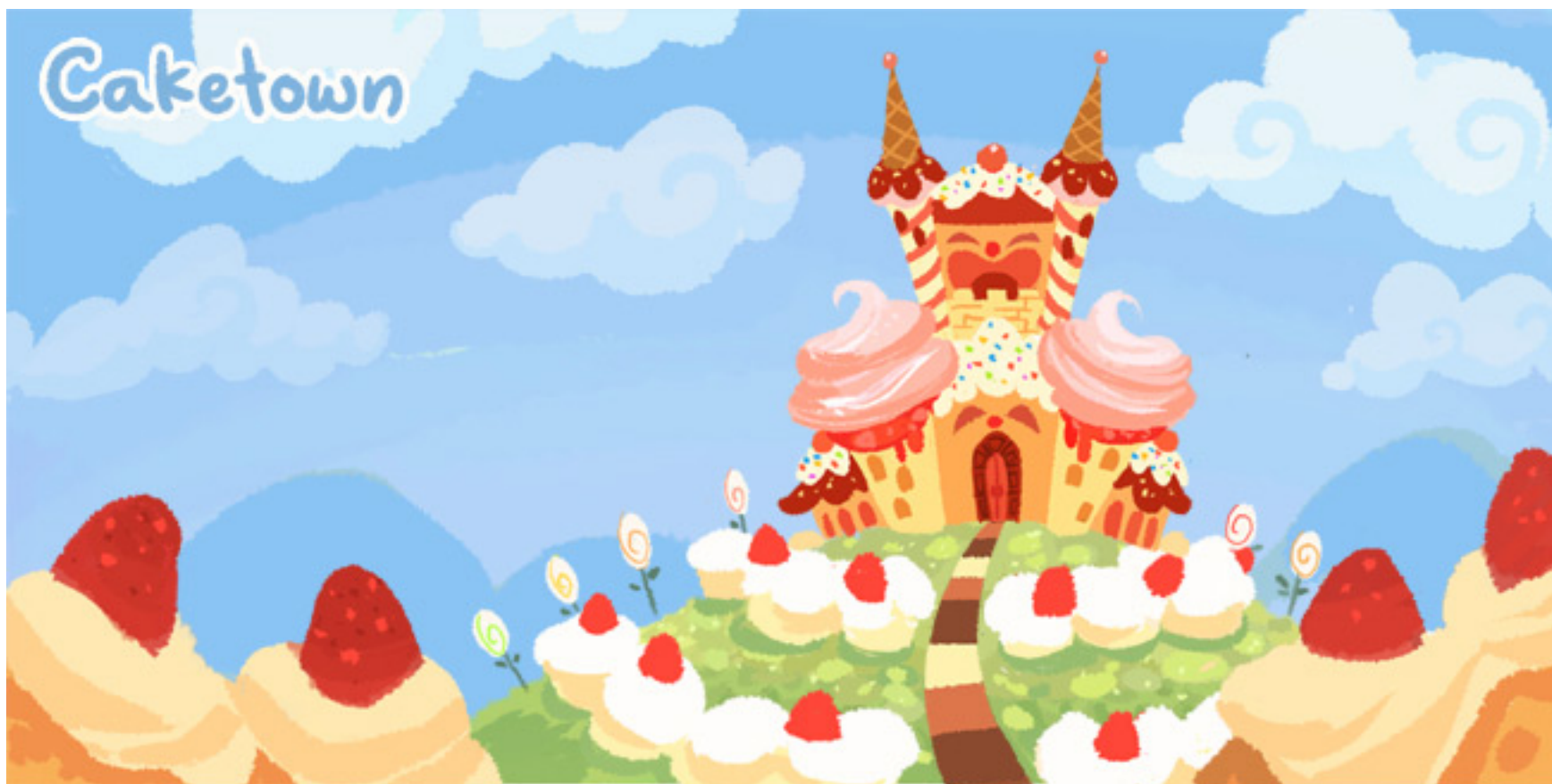














Hold it.



Where do
you think
YOU'RE
going, kid?



You can't just, like,
barge into a castle,
y'know?

Yeah!



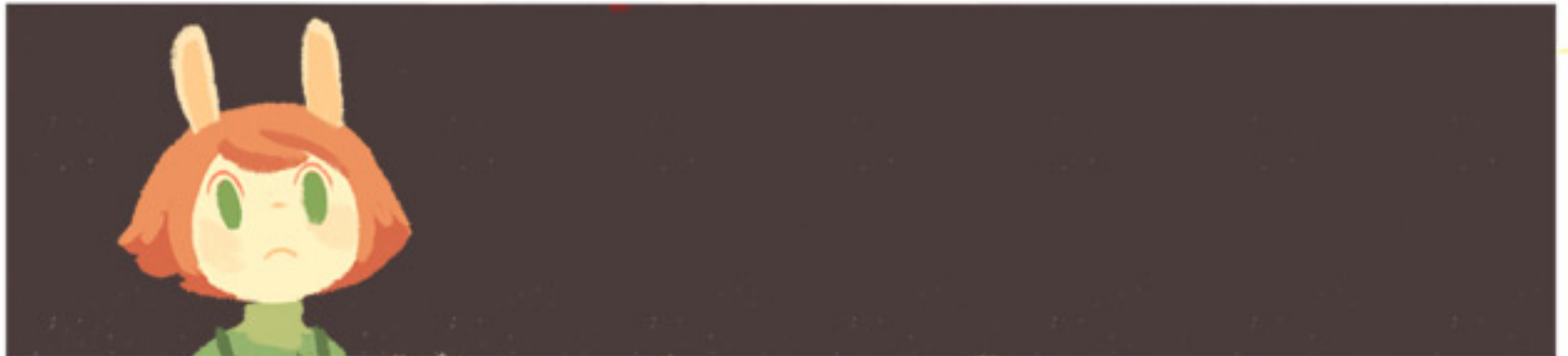
Oh!
I-I'm sorry!



Um, actually,
I'm here to see
my dad...







It's **BLT**,
you moron!

B! L! T!!

How do you
keep getting
the order
wrong?!



I-I'm sorry, sir!
I just went for the
order we introduce
ourselves in!

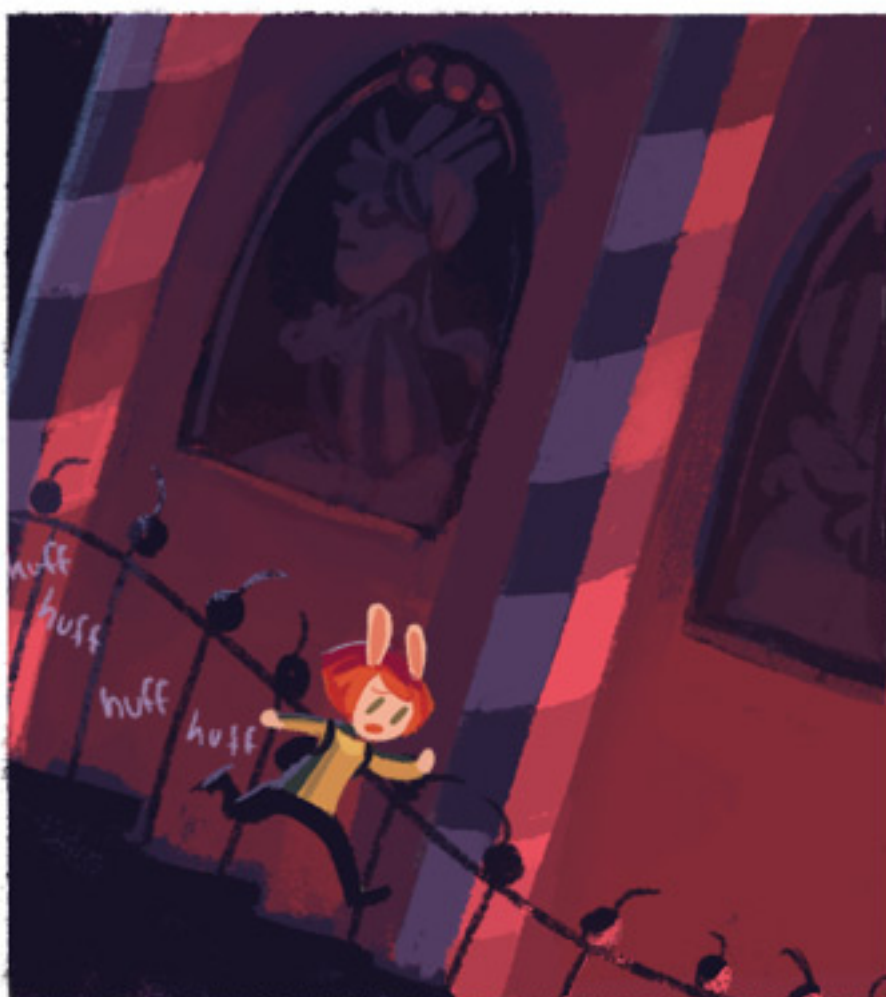
I get confused!

You're such
a total dork,
Bacon!



And it's "Trio,"
not "Squad!" Duh!

I'm sorry!
I'm so sorry!!



Wow, what a bunch of freaks!

Maybe things are worse than I...







Shut up and listen here, Cucumber, because this is serious.



The most important day of your life has finally arrived...

The day you become a man.



Y-Yeah, you wrote that in the letter.

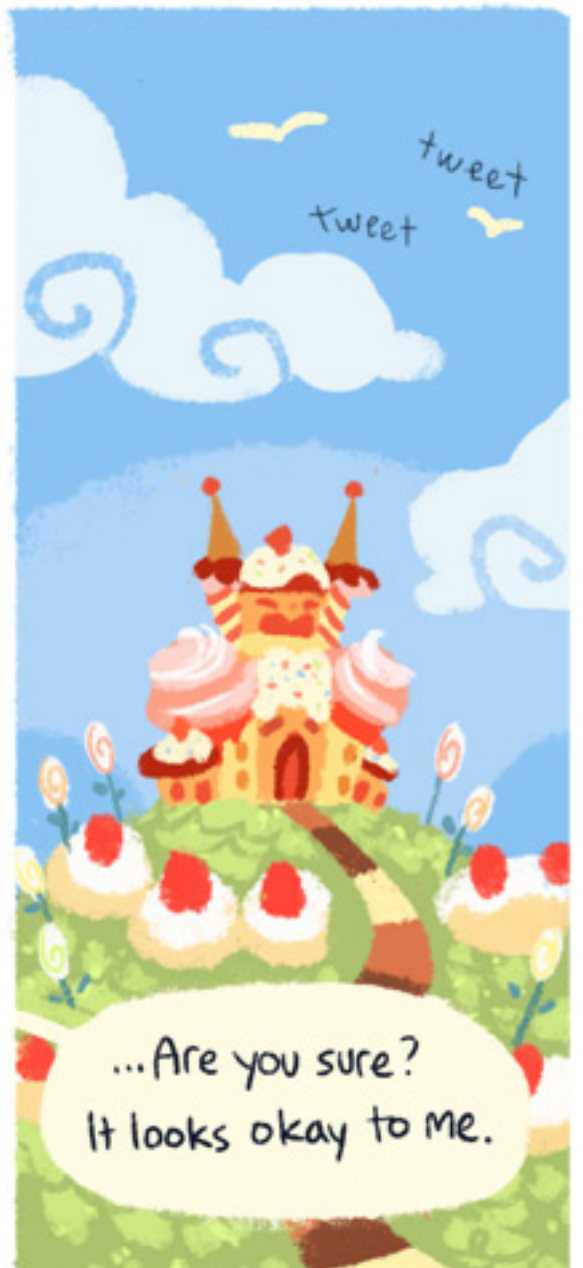
What does it even mean?



Well, Mister Read-the-Letter, you oughta know!

The world's in **peril**!

Peril?!



...Are you sure? It looks okay to me.





The Nightmare Knight brought destruction upon Dreamside thousands of years ago.



With the aid of the Dream Oracle, the first Legendary Hero sealed him away.



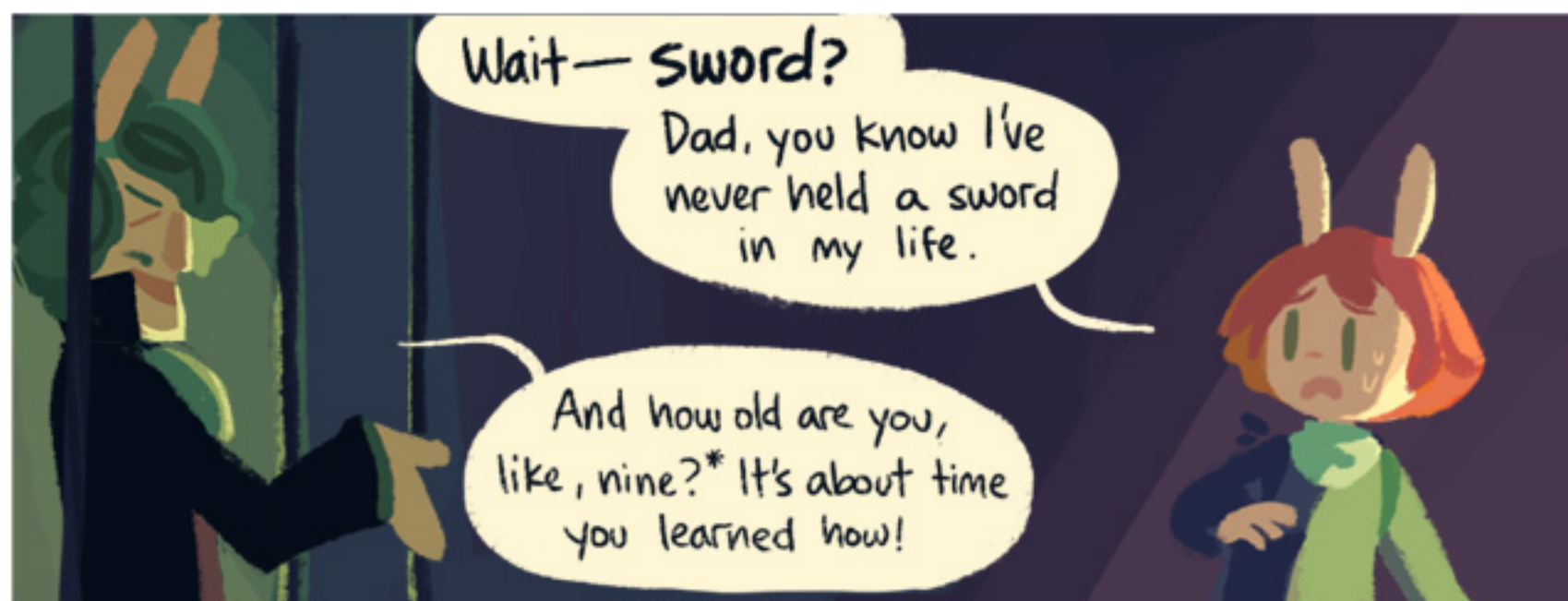
But now, Cordelia and her henchmen are close to bringing him back.



How close?

That close! Check it out, son.





* nope





It's **your** turn to take up
the sword of legend, Cucumber!
Get with the program!

Um, Dad,
I understand
that this is a
big deal...

Mm-hmm?

... but I just don't
think I'm cut out for
this legendary hero
business.

A-And
what about
school?

BAH!
School, schmool!

When's the
last time you
ever heard of a
legendary hero
going to school?!

w- what does that
even have to do
with...

A comic panel divided into three horizontal sections. The top section shows a man with dark hair and a green shirt shouting at a boy with red hair and a green shirt. The middle section is a close-up of the man's face, looking angry. The bottom section shows the boy looking nervous and holding a green object. The background is a warm, orange-yellow color.

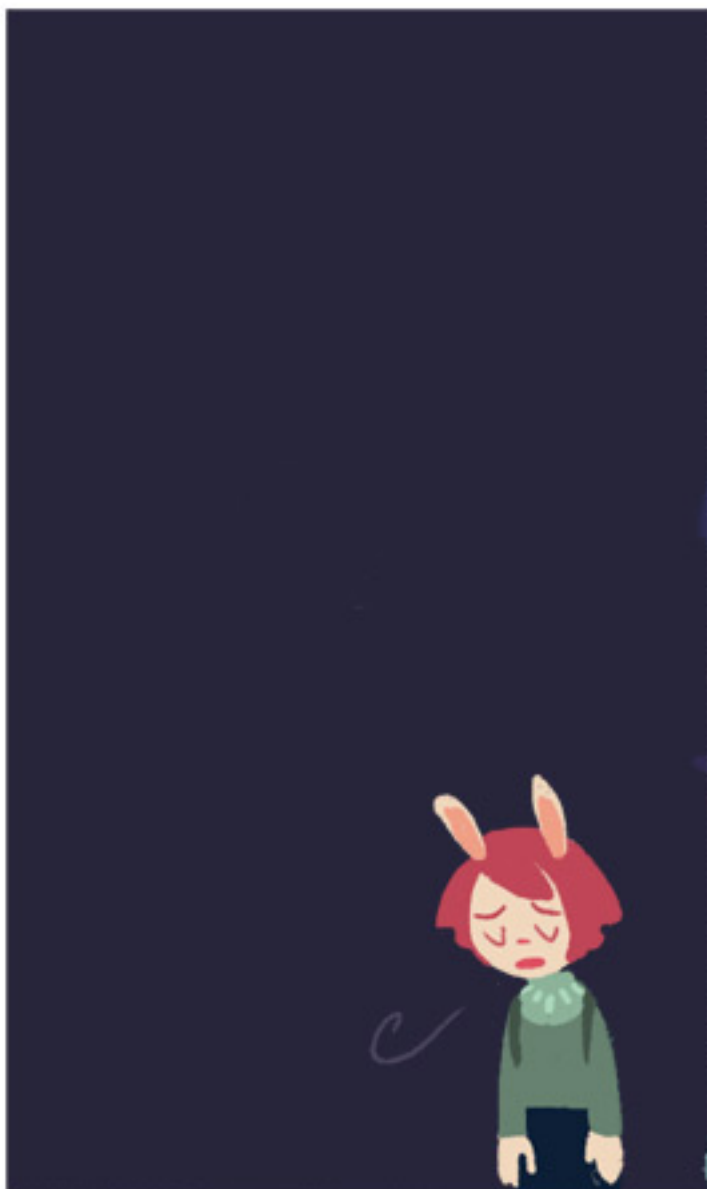
Will you quit
whining and
do it
already?!

The fate of
the world's riding
on this!

Don't you
GET IT?!

S-Sure, Dad,
but one thing...





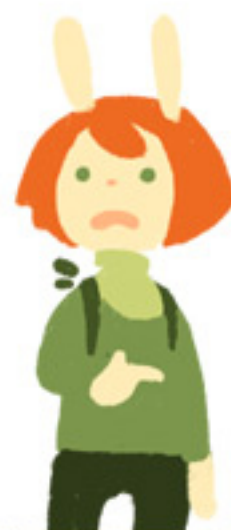


What? No!
What?!

That's
IMPOSSIBLE!



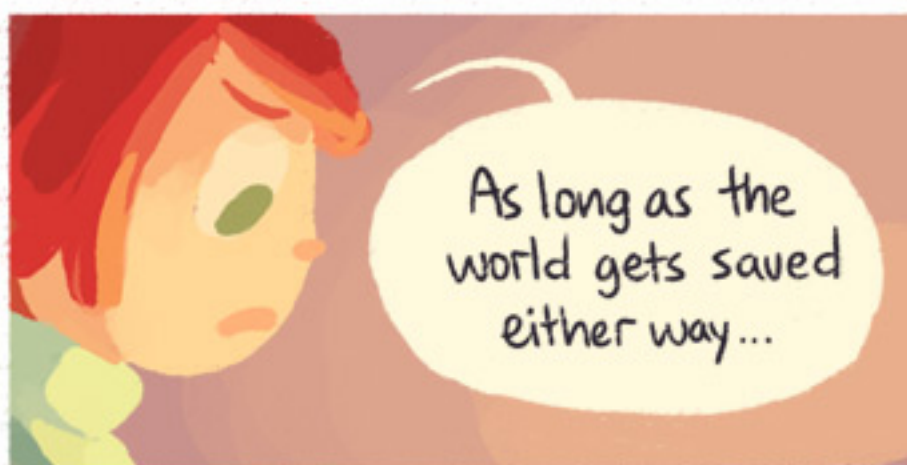
... But they're
right there.



It's boring, then!
You don't want to go down
as the most boring legendary
hero in history, do you?



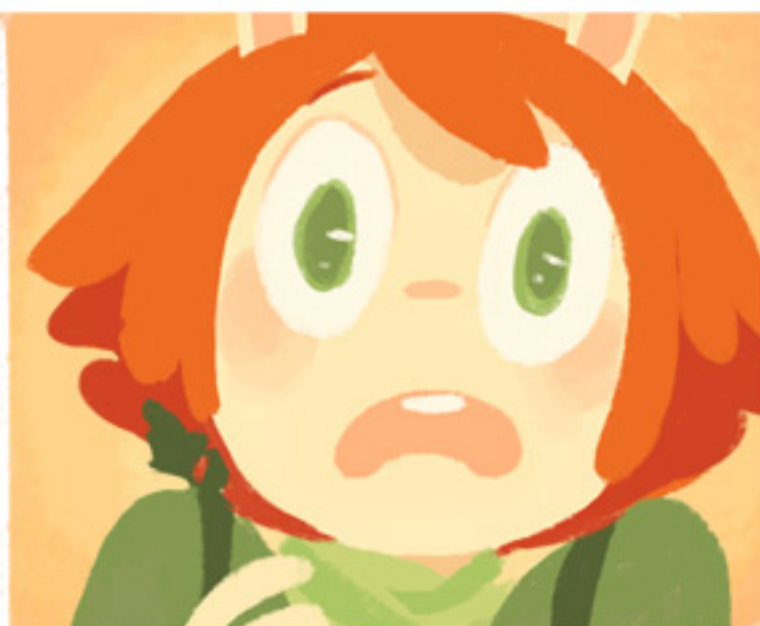
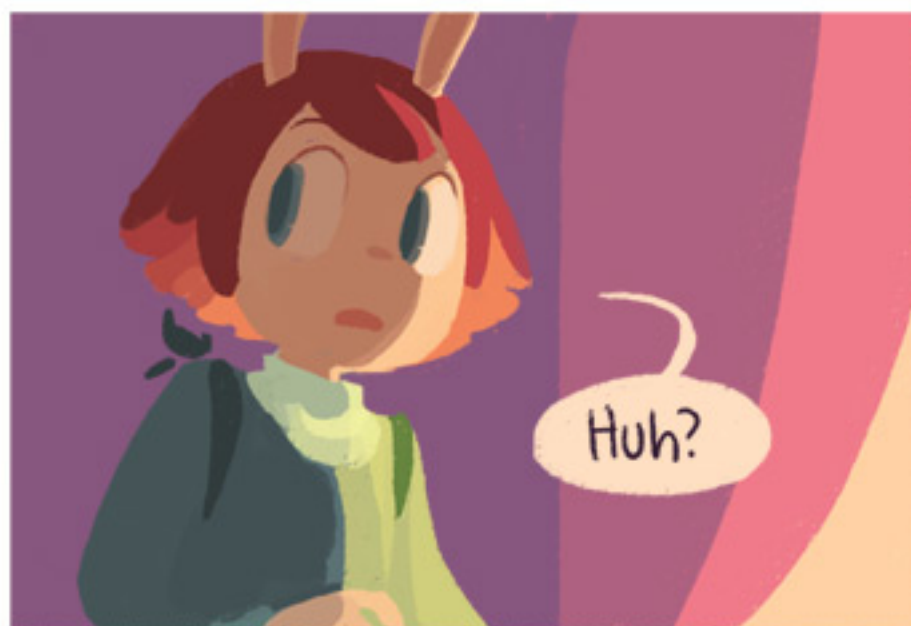
Well, I don't
really care
about that,
Dad.



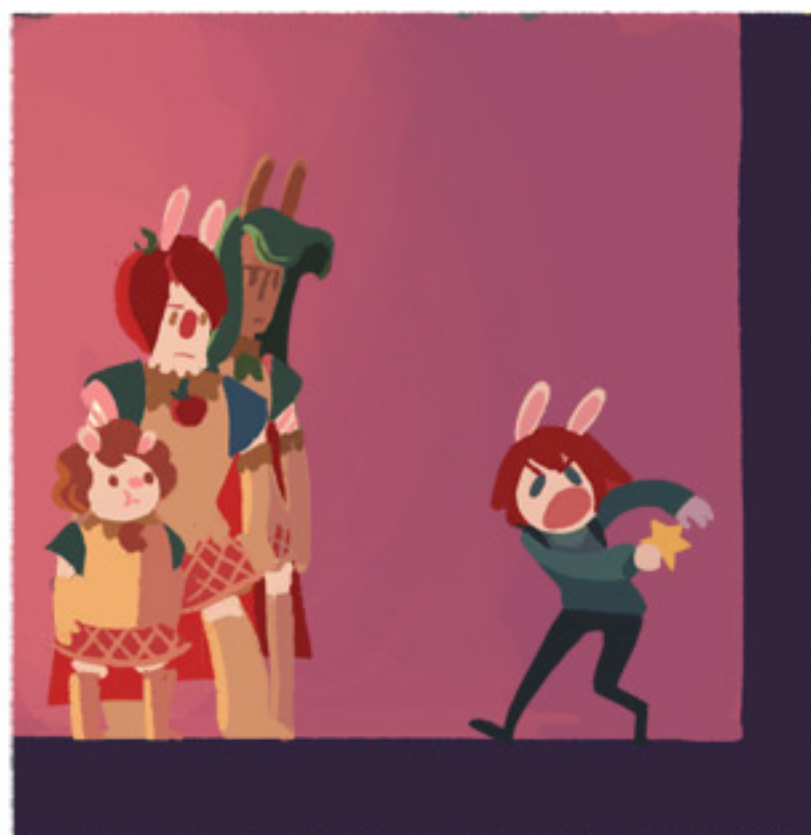
As long as the
world gets saved
either way...



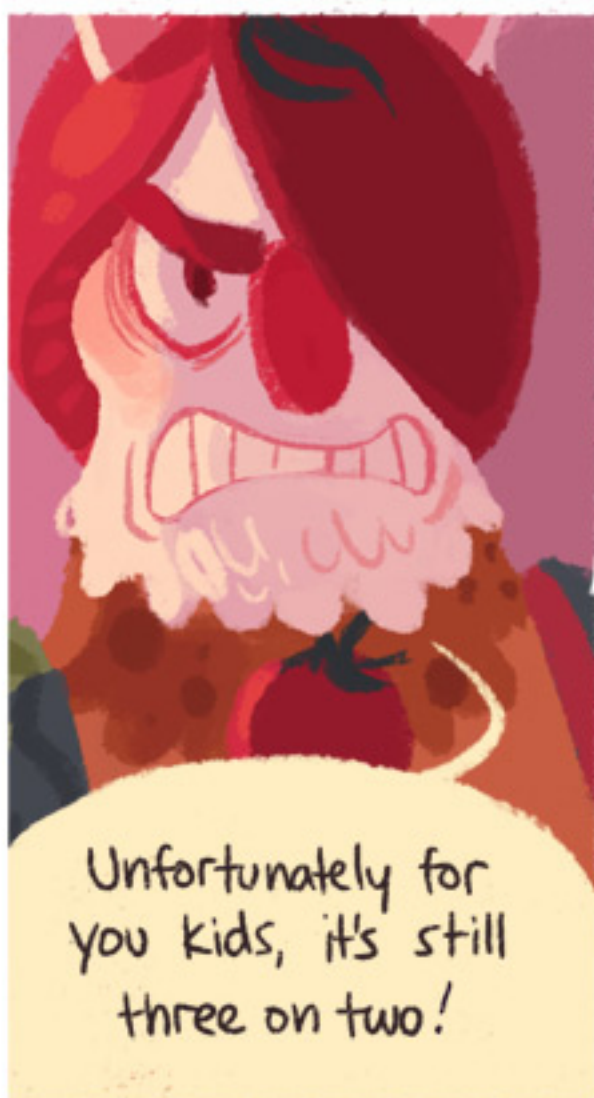
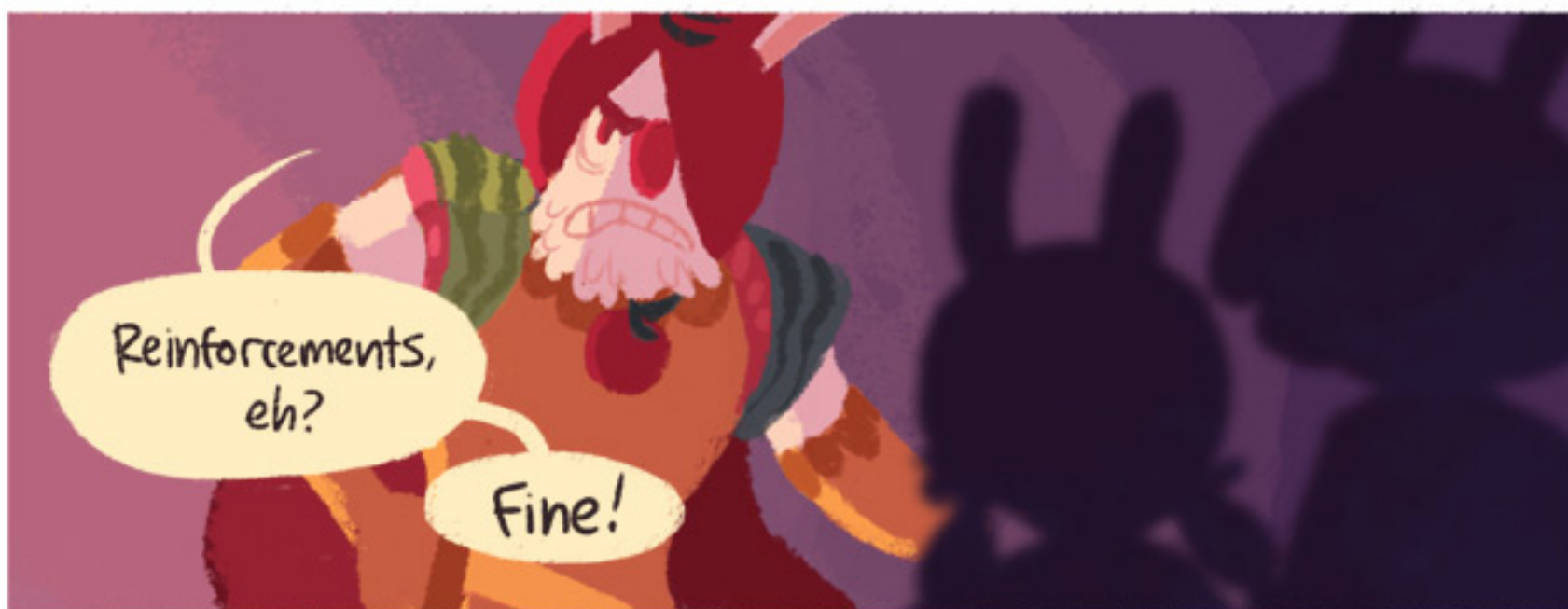
**Not
so fast,
kid!**

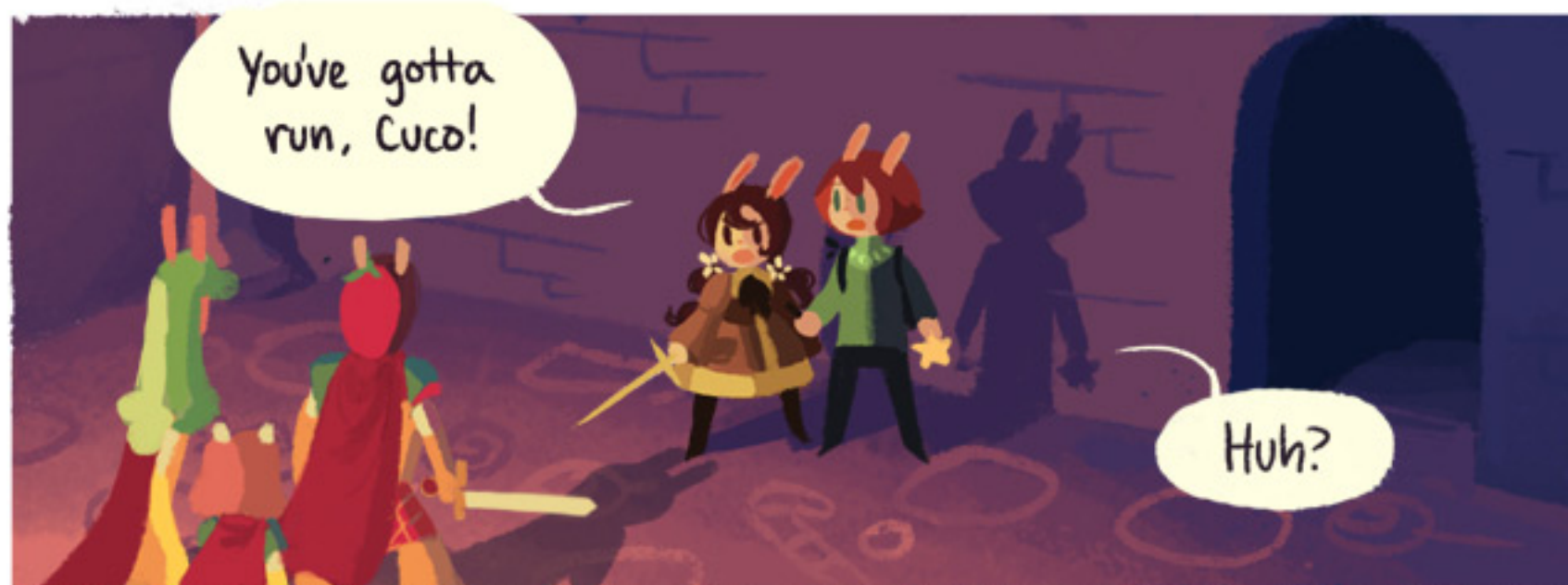


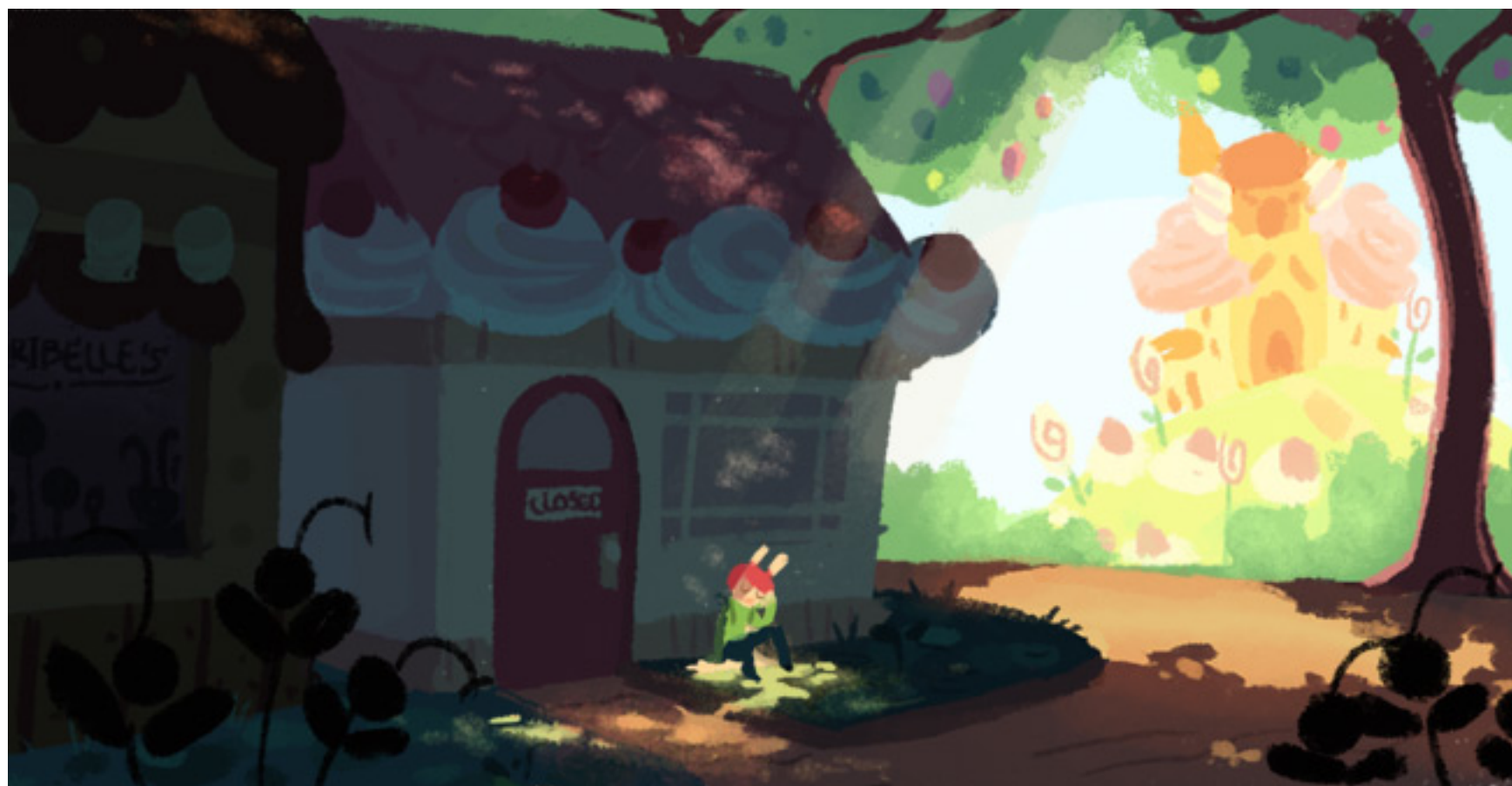




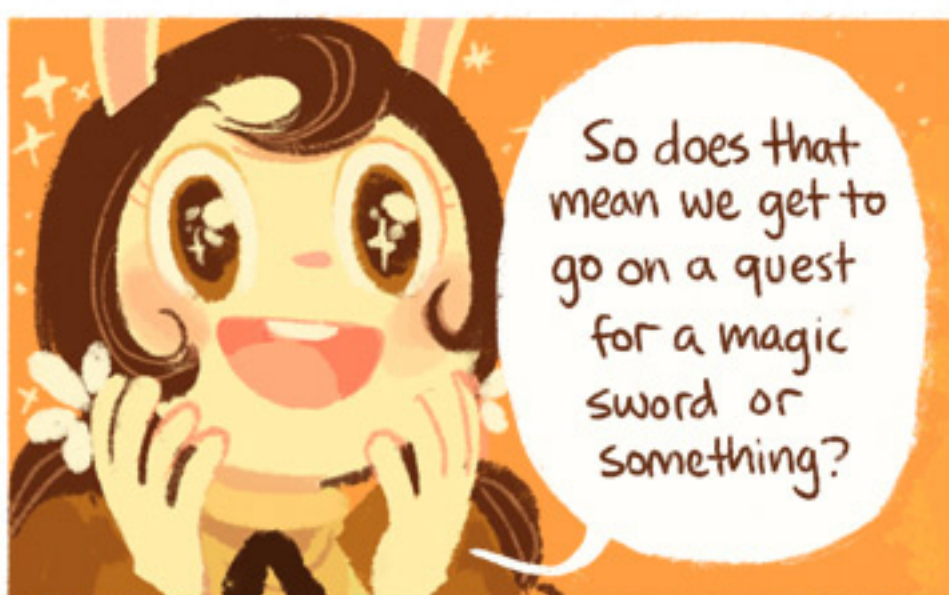


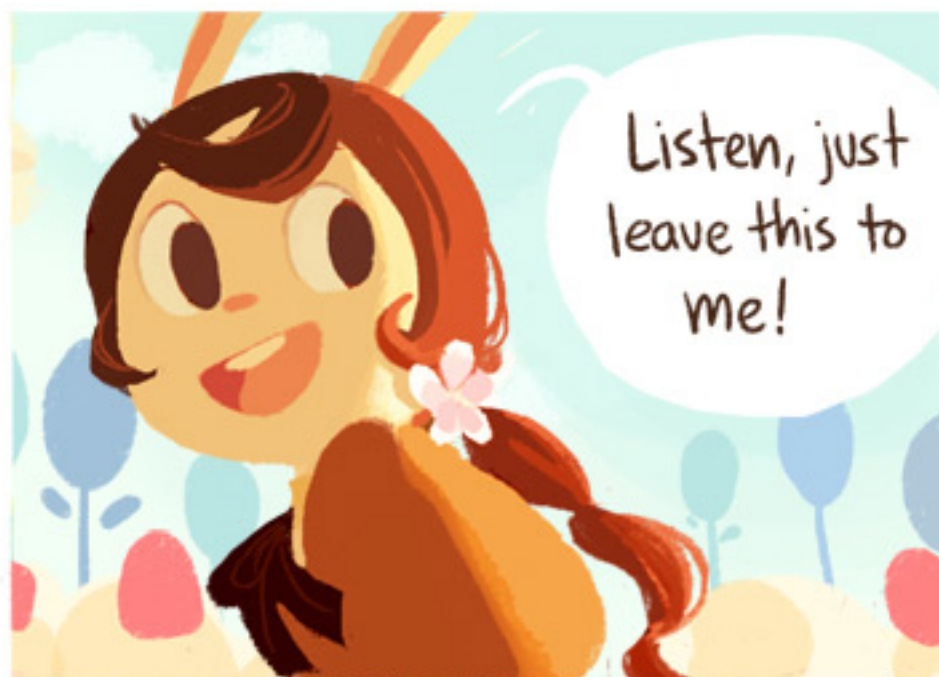
















I knew it!

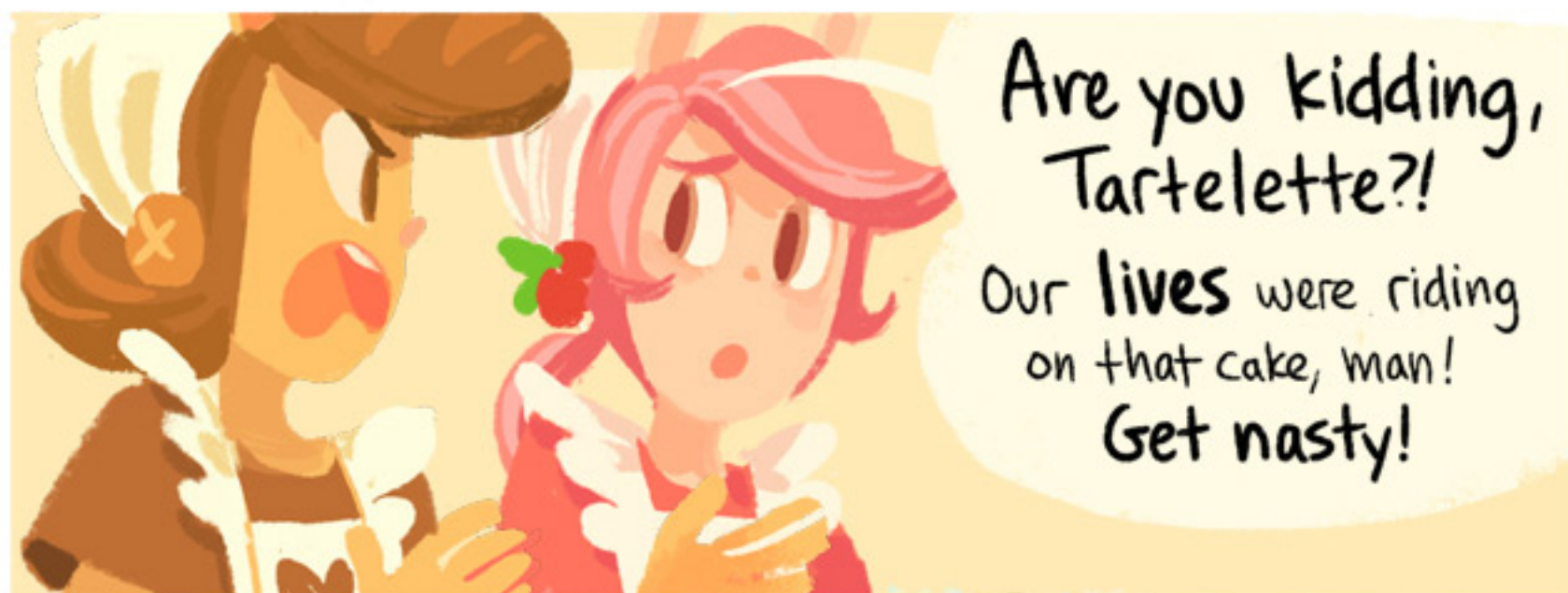
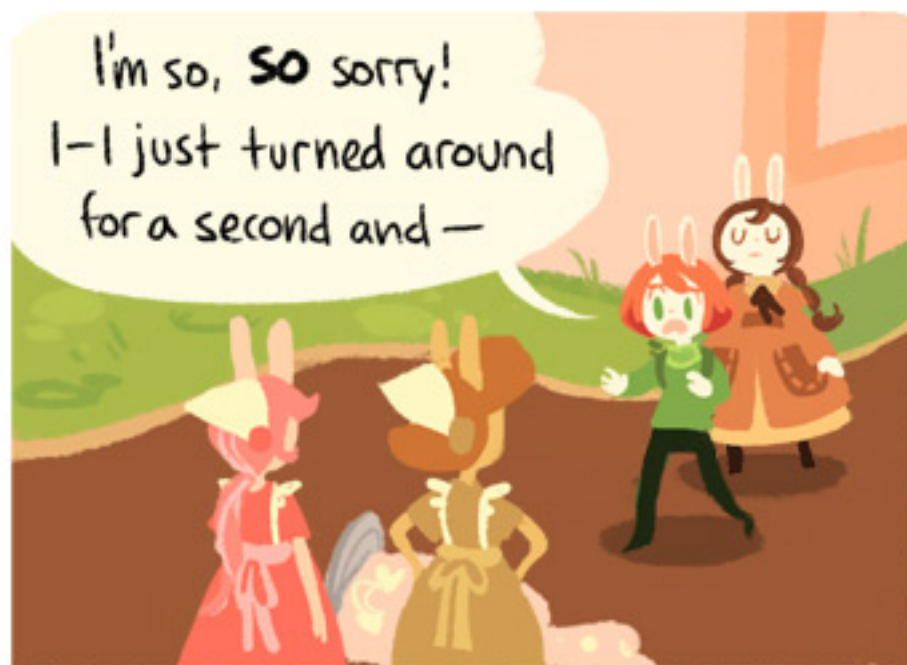


I just knew something stupid like this was going to happen!

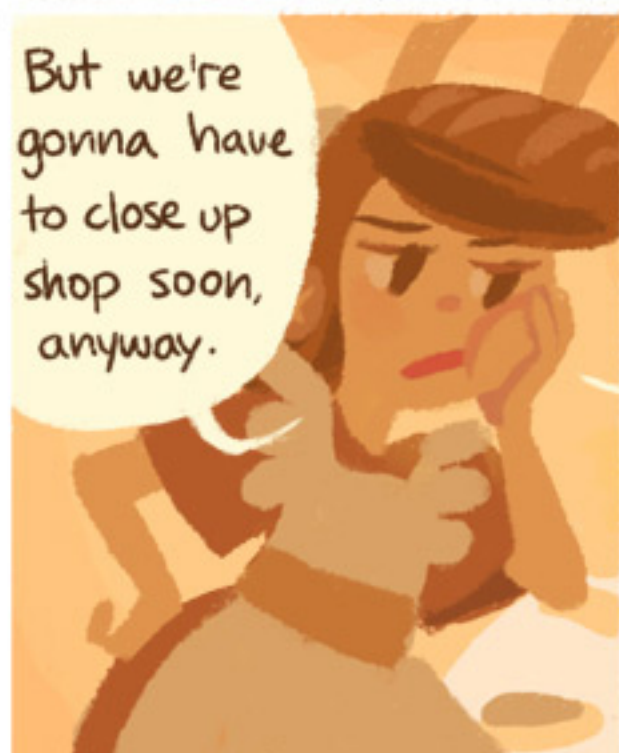


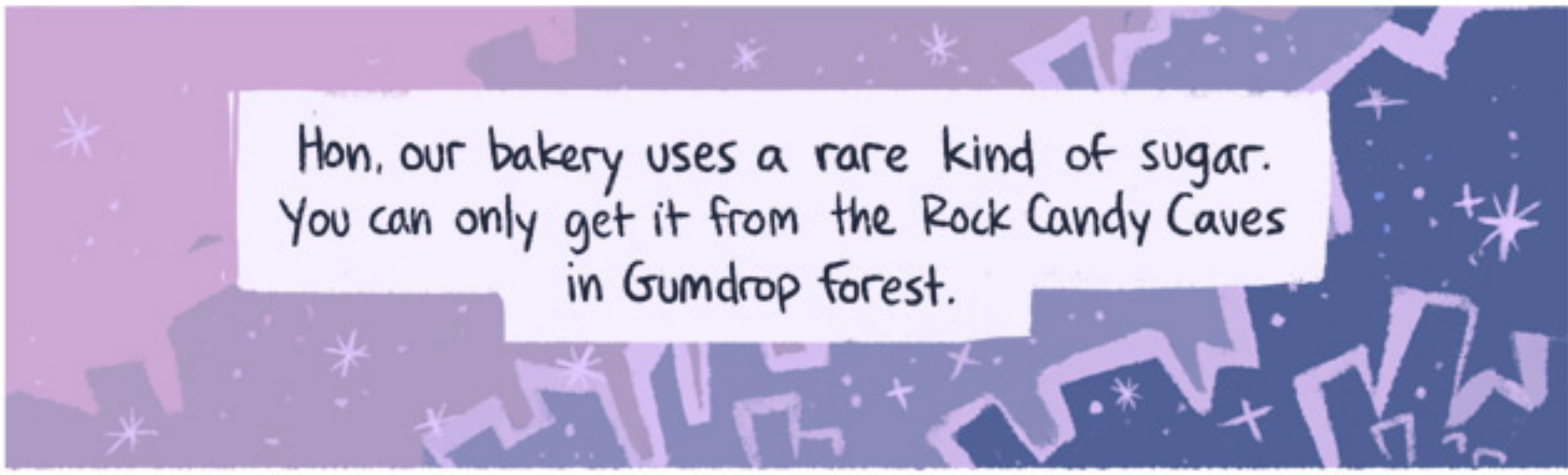
You meathead!

Were you even watching where you were going, man?!










Hon, our bakery uses a rare kind of sugar.
You can only get it from the Rock Candy Caves
in Gumdrop Forest.




But the forest around the
caves is pretty dangerous,
so we usually ask knights
to collect it for us.




But since
Cordelia came,
we haven't been
able to get any
knights to help.

And now that
we've used the
last of our sugar...



Hey, wait!
You said
Gumdrop Forest?

We were just
going there to
see the Oracle!



Yeah! Why don't
we get your sugar
while we're at it?

Would you
really, hon?!

You're life-
savers!

And so:

Hey, um,

Why'd you
come with us,
again?

Well, don't take this
the wrong way, hon...

It's just,
we don't want to
take any chances
after what happened
to the **last** dude we
sent here alone.

I think I'll
regret asking, but...

What happened
to him?

No idea, man! Never
heard from him again.

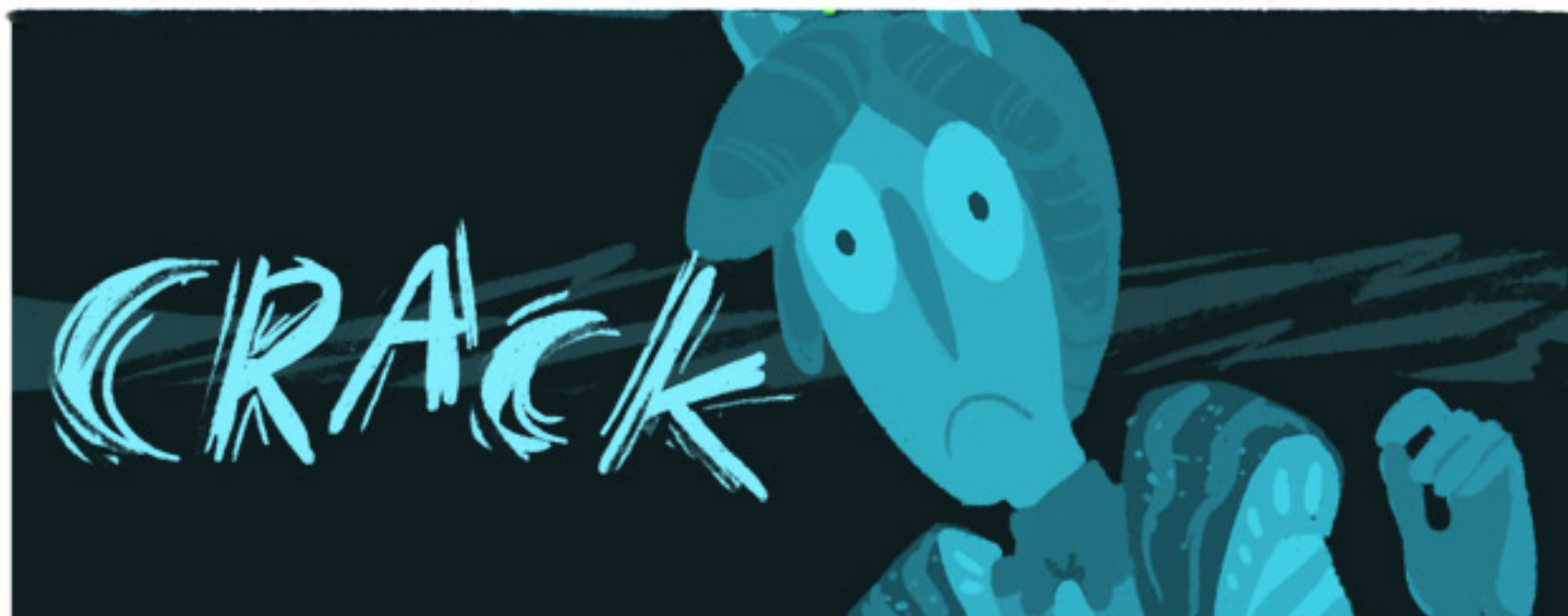
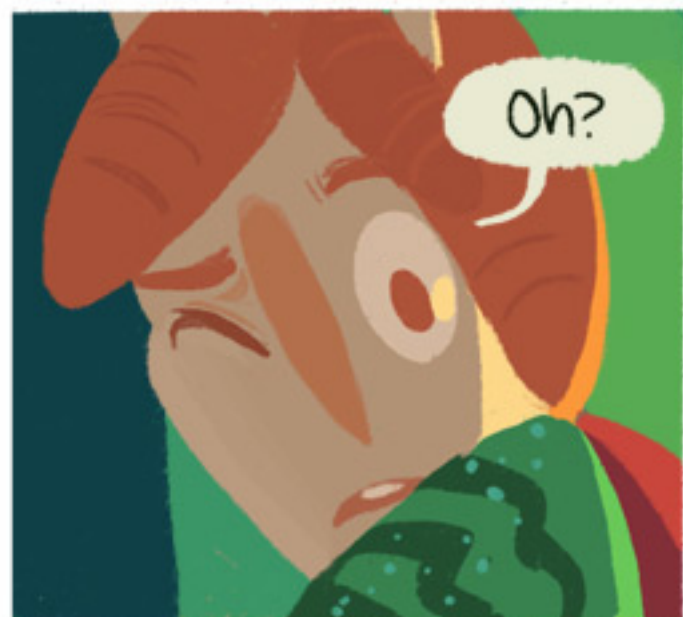
O-Oh.

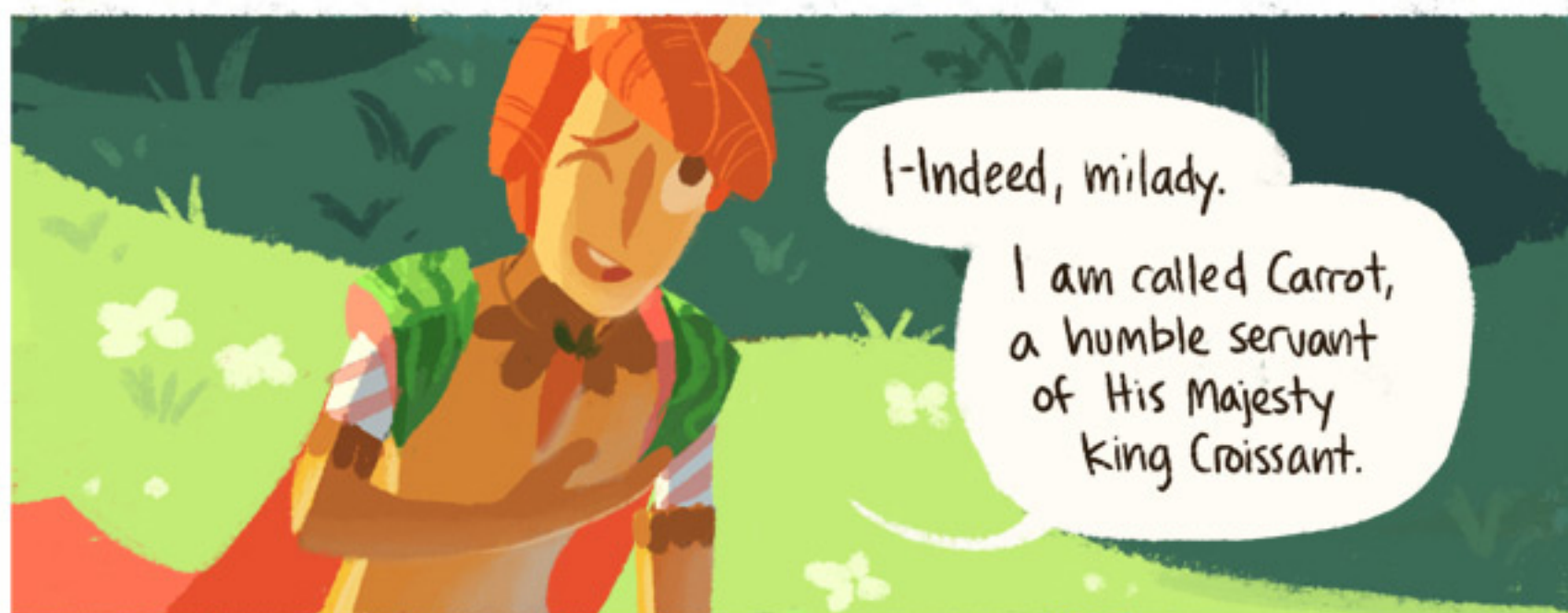
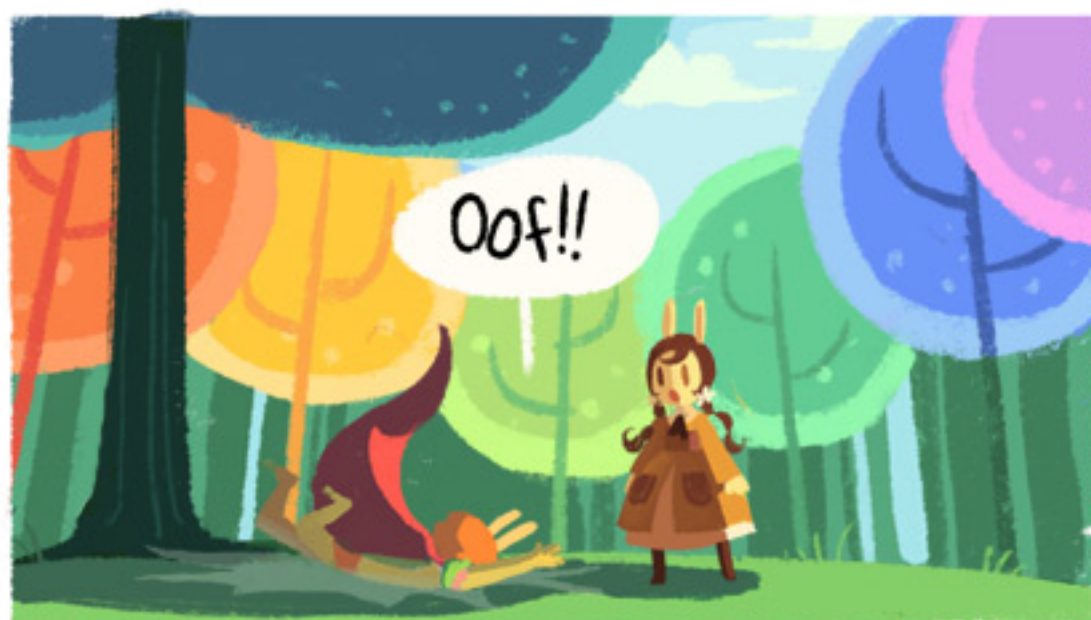
I bet he got eaten by
a monster or something.

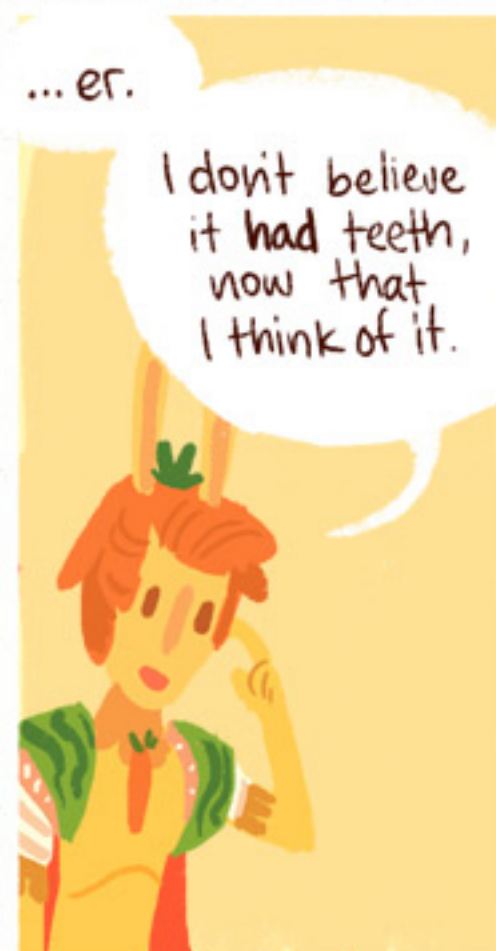
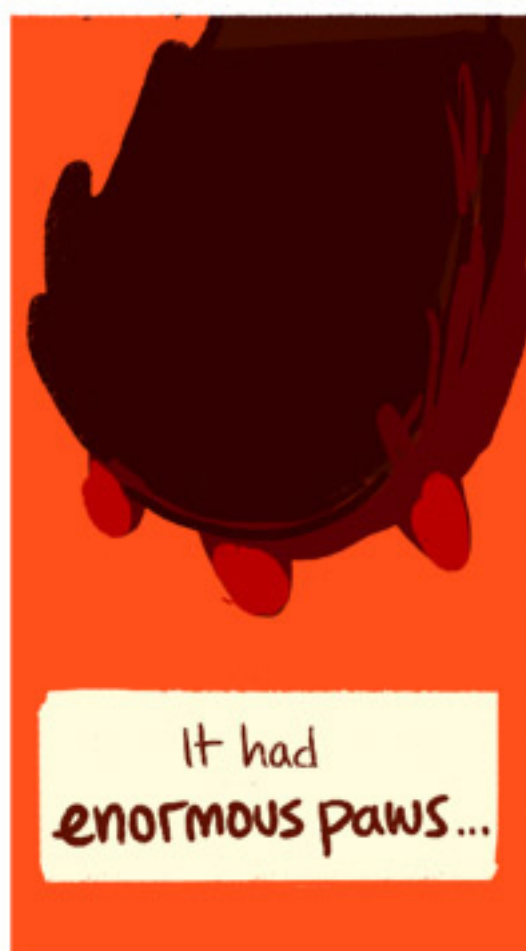
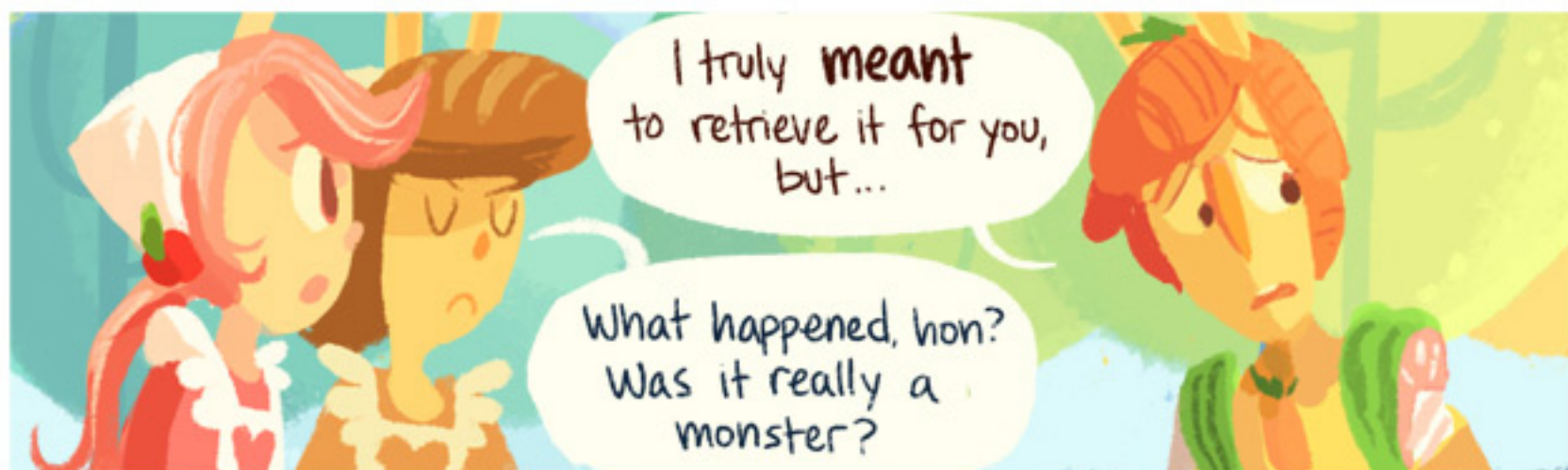
Oh, don't
say that.

Well, come on,
though.











G-G-Good heavens!

There! Th-that's
it, without a
doubt!

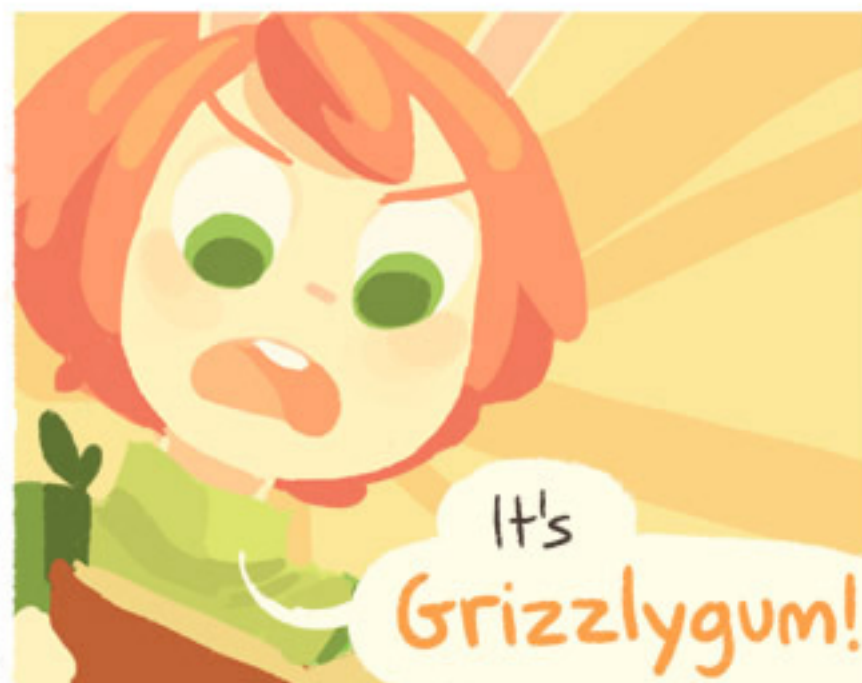
GRRRRRR

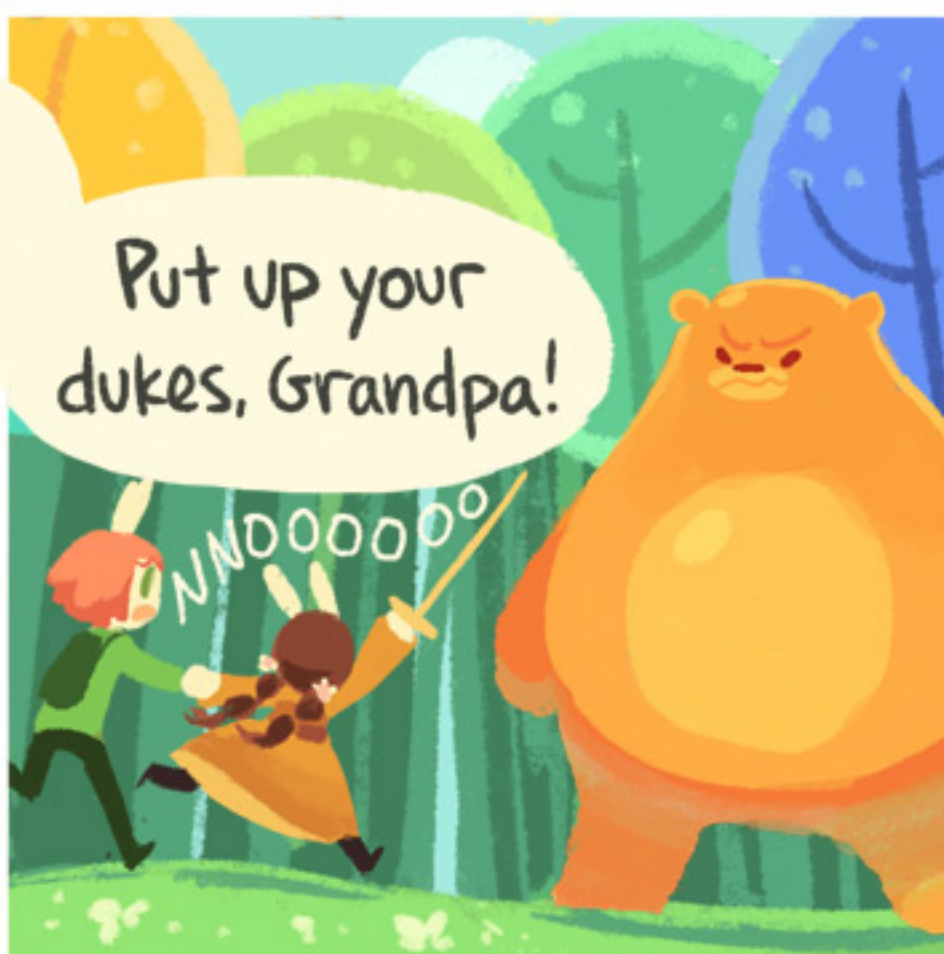
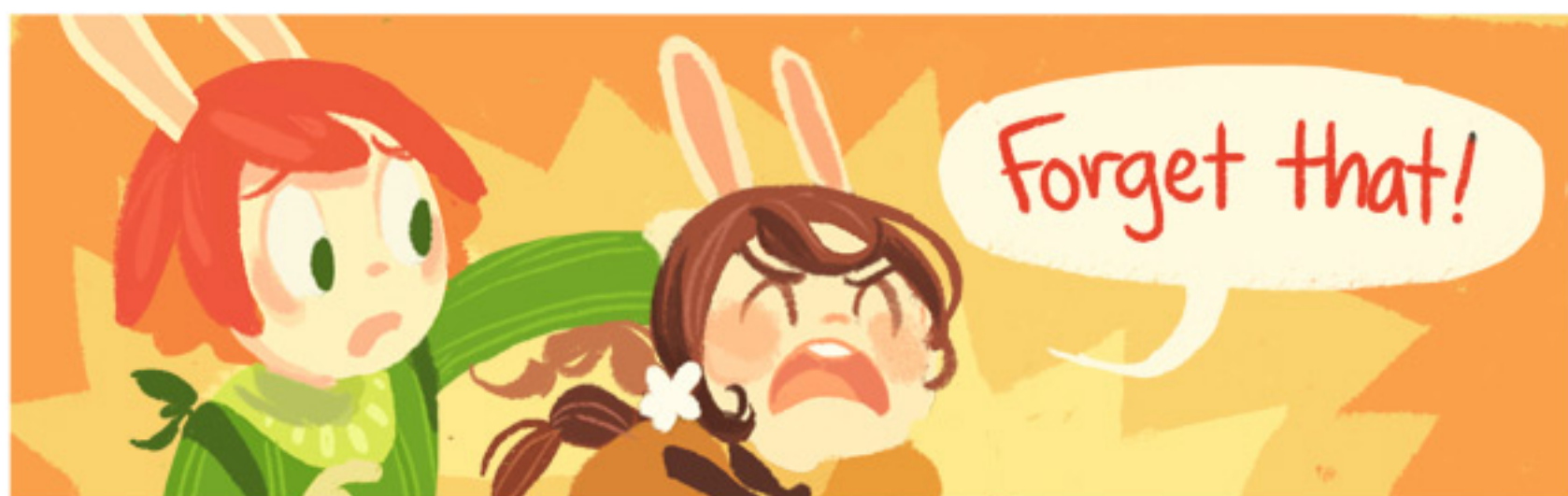
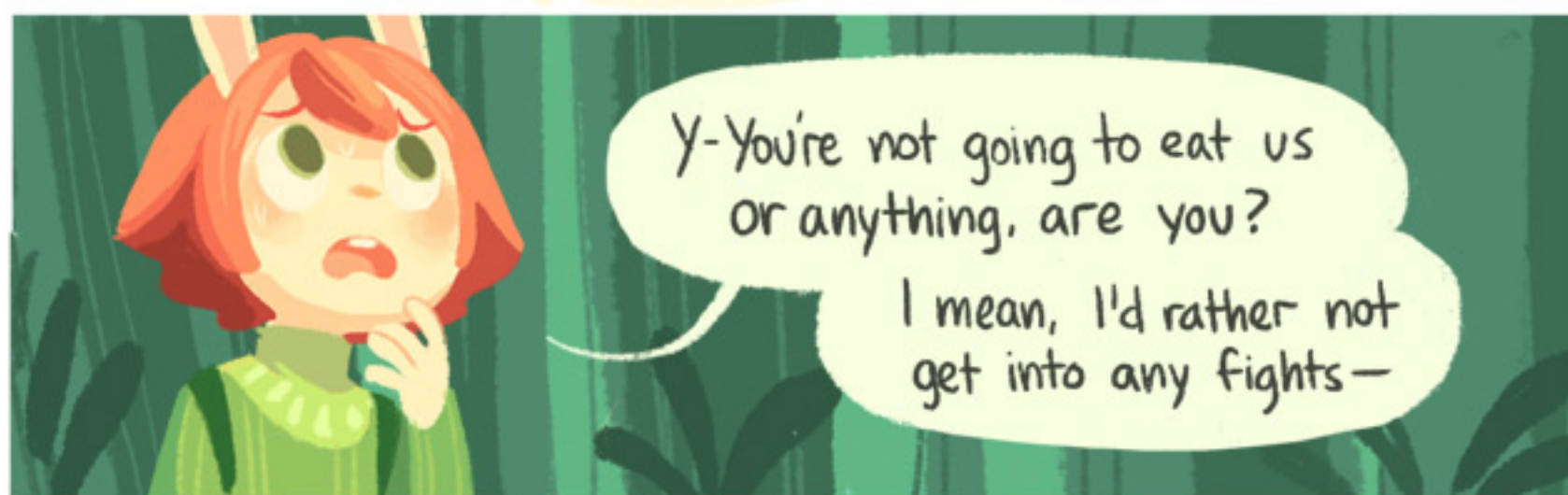
A bear?!

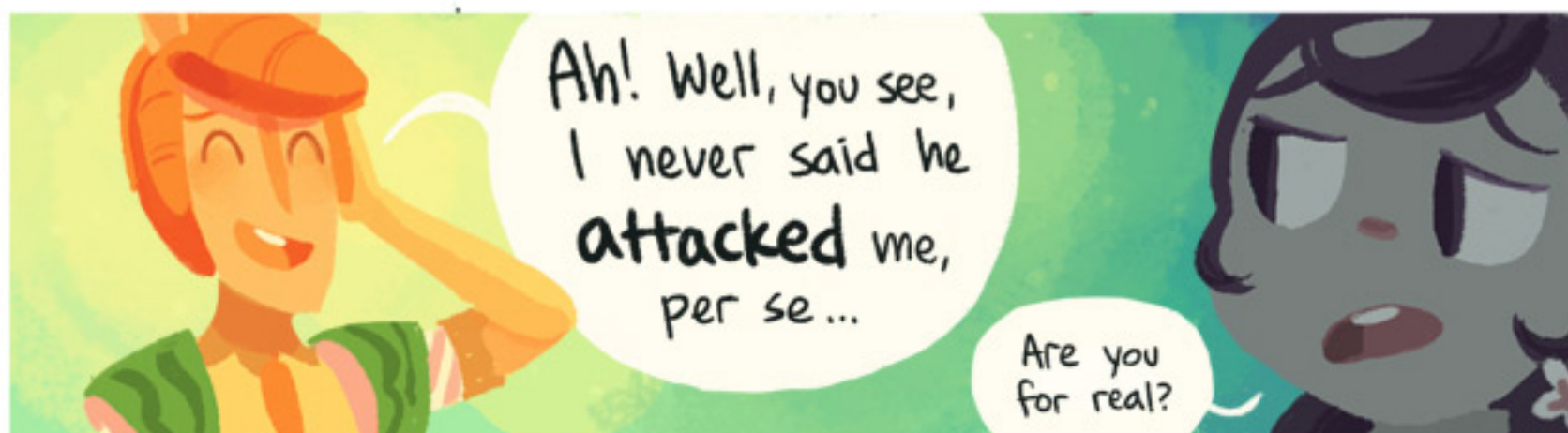
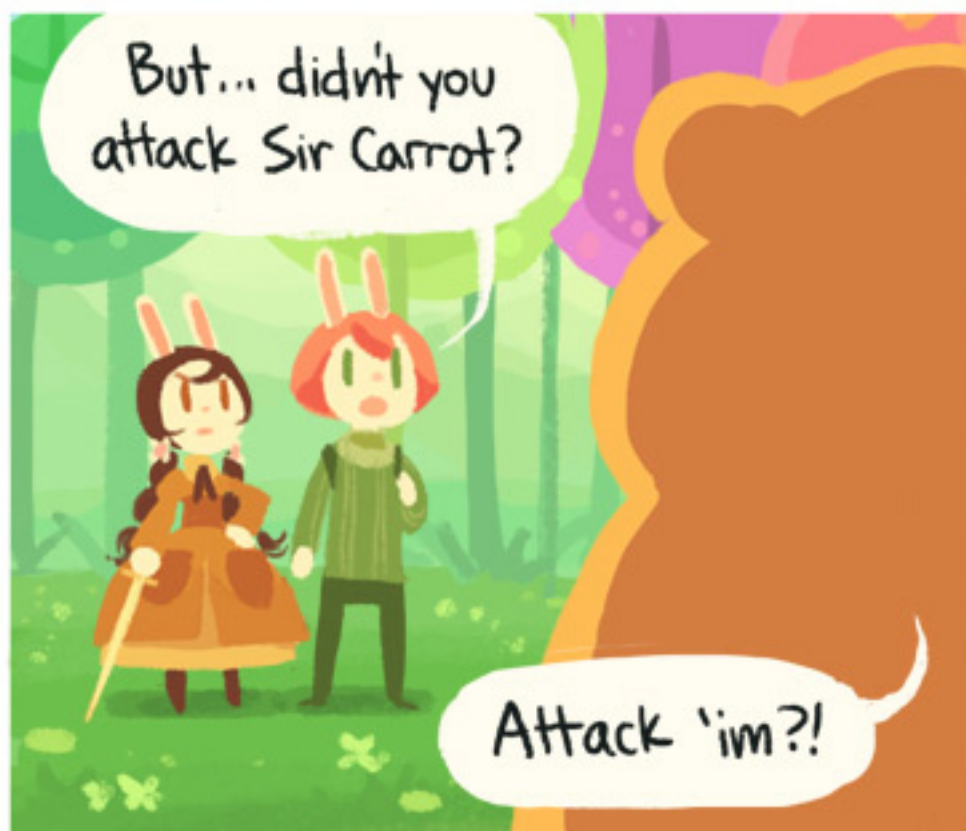
TREFTH-
PAFFERTH!

And it's
talking!

Is it?







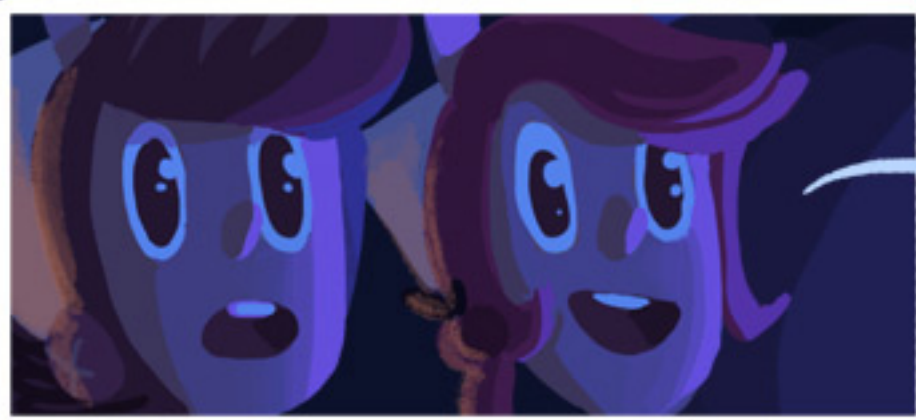




You've got an appointment!

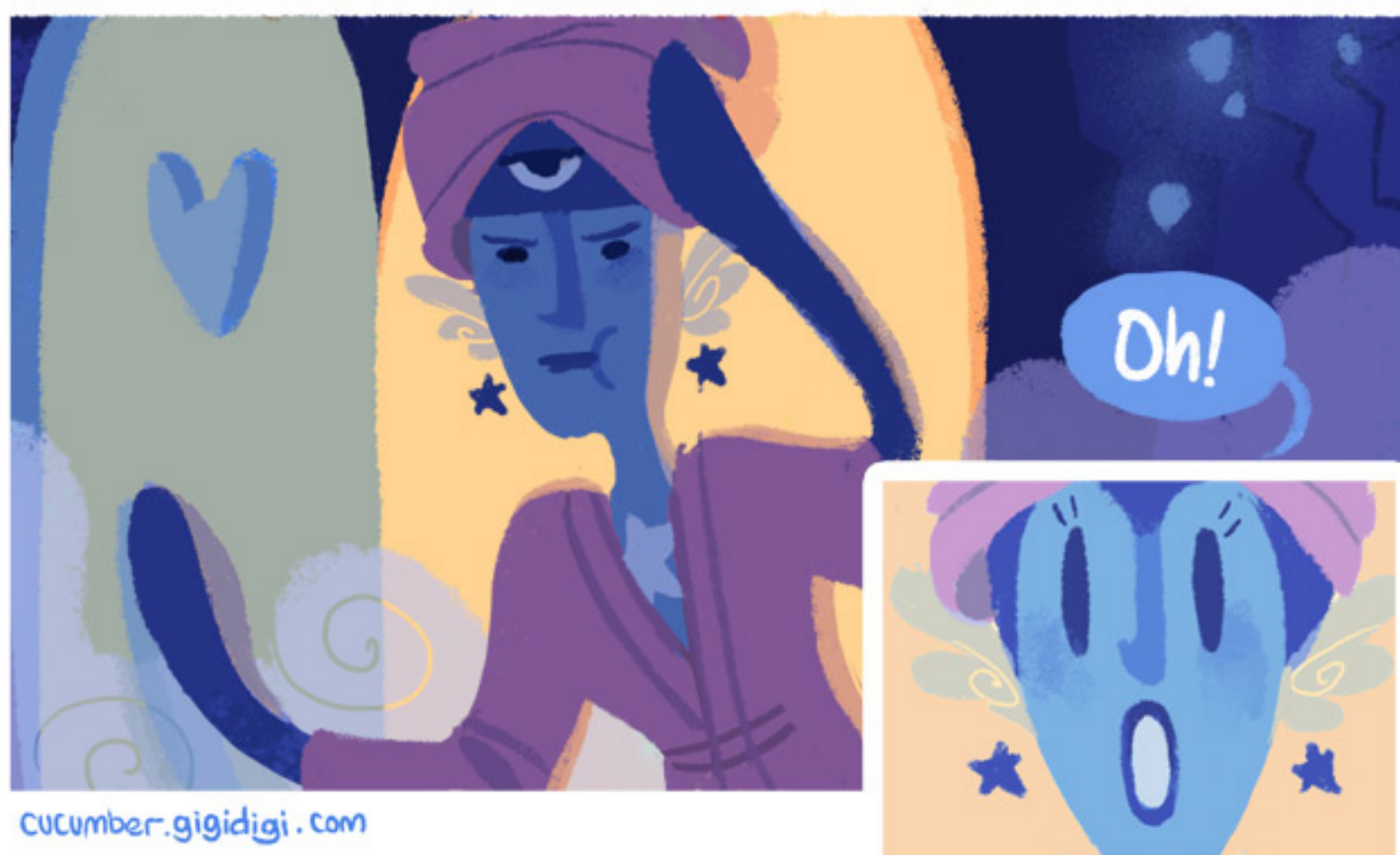


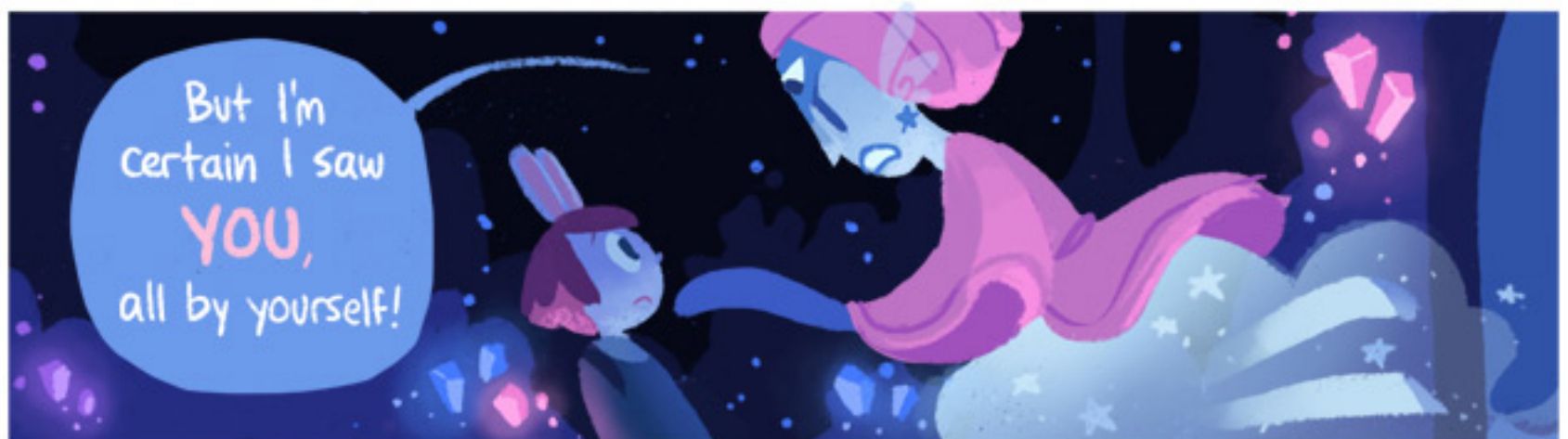
What are you, her secretary?




Hey!
This is it, hon!











W-What are you talking about? That isn't even possible!



Grizzlygum, is this the truth?

Hmm...



I don't rememmer anybody elsh comin' in today, Lady.

You shure?

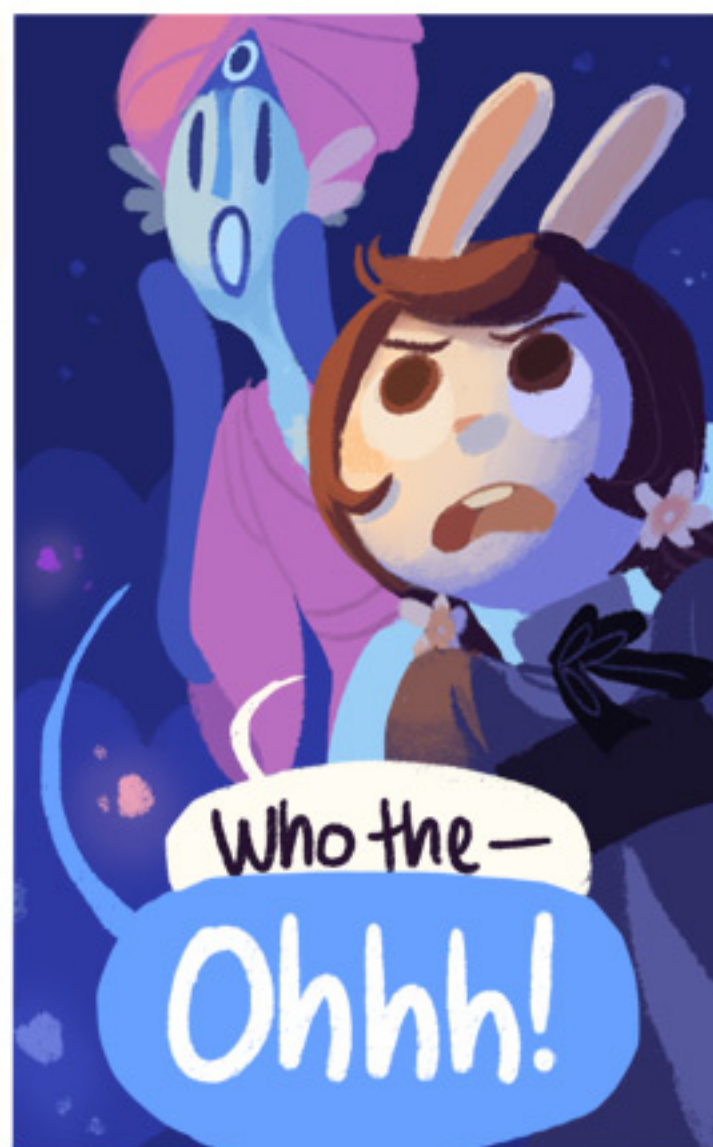



...What?

But then... who did I give the Dream Sword to?



Awww, forgot me already?!





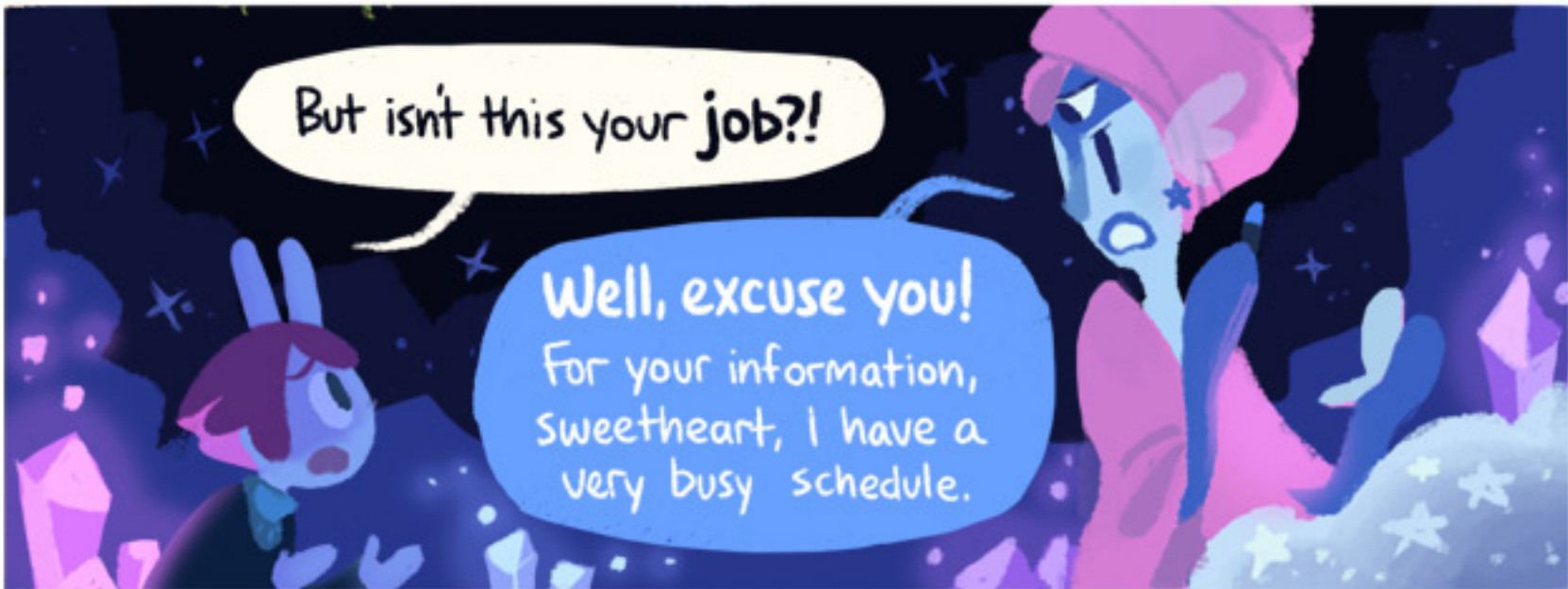
But — **WHAT?!**
We don't even look
anything alike!

Or **sound** anything
alike! Or — or **anything**
anything alike!



Oh, for goodness'
sakes, it's the
red hair.

How am I supposed to tell
all you bunny people apart,
anyway?



But isn't this your job?!

Well, excuse you!
For your information,
sweetheart, I have a
very busy schedule.



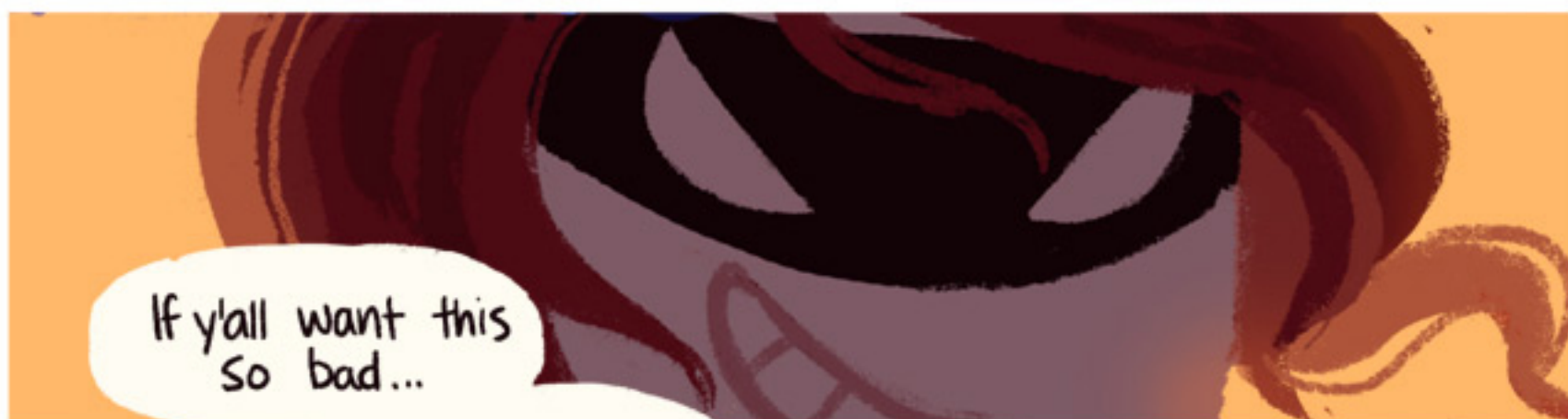
I don't have time to
spend interrogating every
"legendary hero" who
walks in here!

But —
But that's just
stupid!



Wasn't that sword supposed to stop the Nightmare Knight?

Aw, this ol' thing?



If y'all want this so bad...



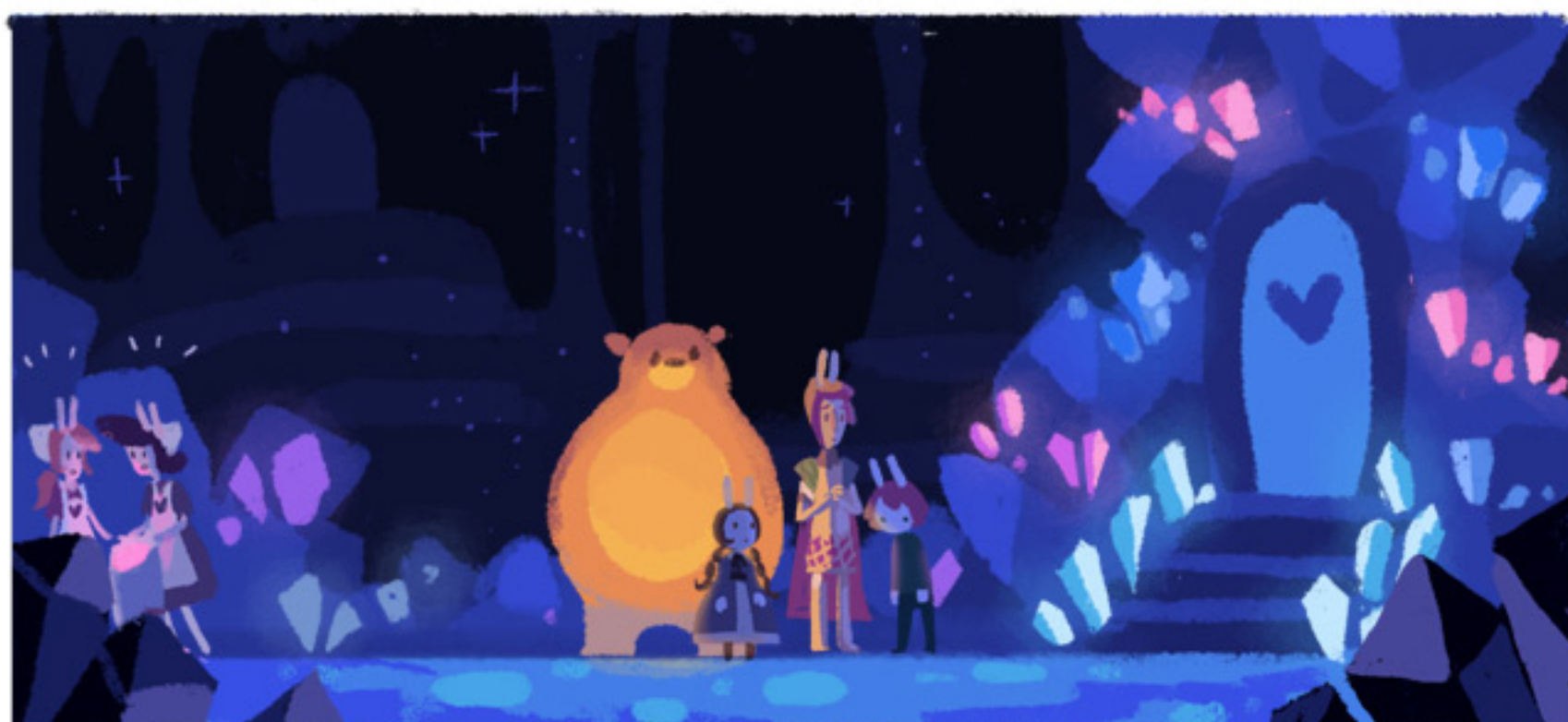
... then come'n get it!



SLAM!!

H-
Hey!









Q "So where does Almond keep her sword when she's not using it?
She surely didn't leave it attached to Sir Tomato's face?"



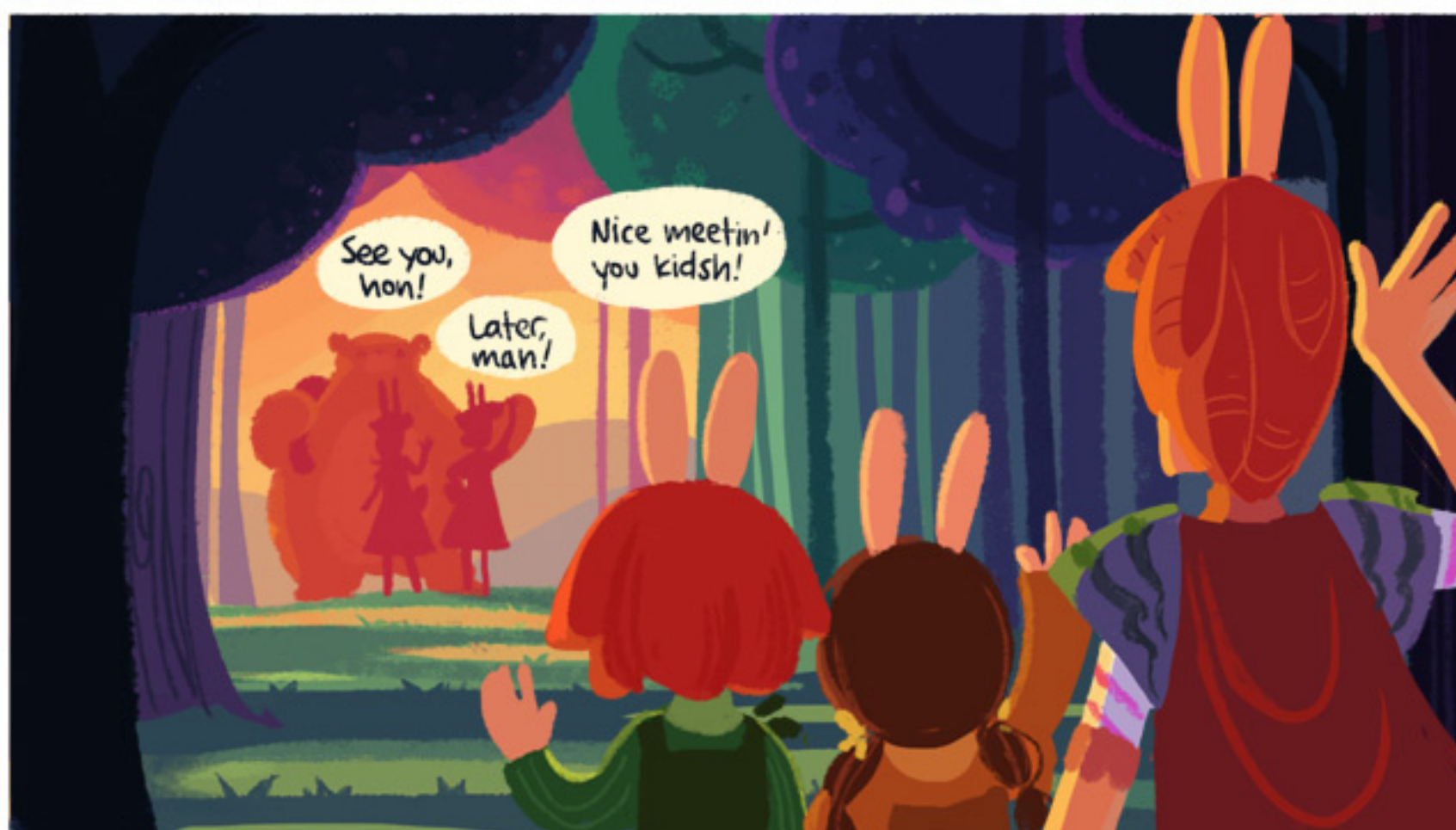
cool



CHAPTER 0

The Nightmare Knight's Return







But of course!



When Cordelia and that
lackey of hers arrived,
they turned the
king to stone!



Those who opposed them
met the same fate.



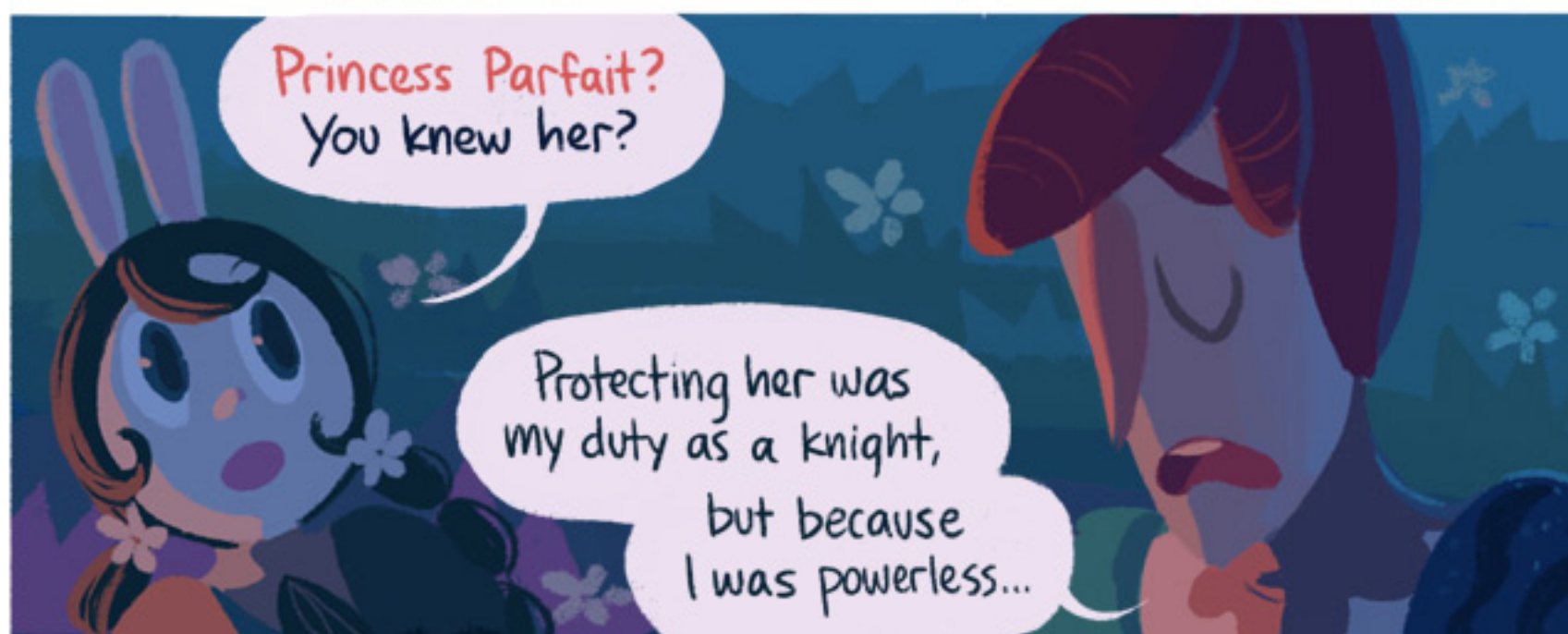
My traitorous companions were
quick to show their true colors,
and though I tried...



I could not stop them.



Oh! Princess, forgive me!



... she was locked away in the castle, where she remains now.





Precisely!

Um, but actually...

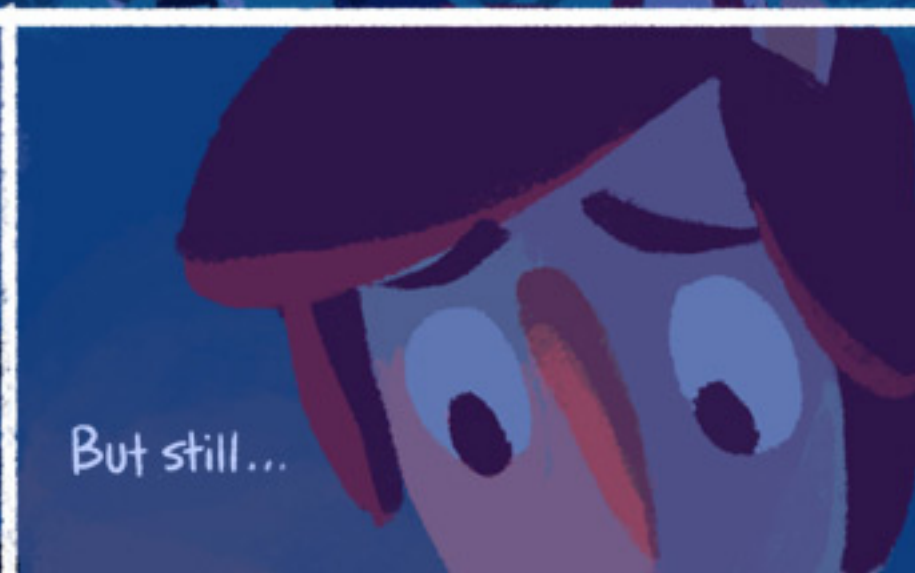
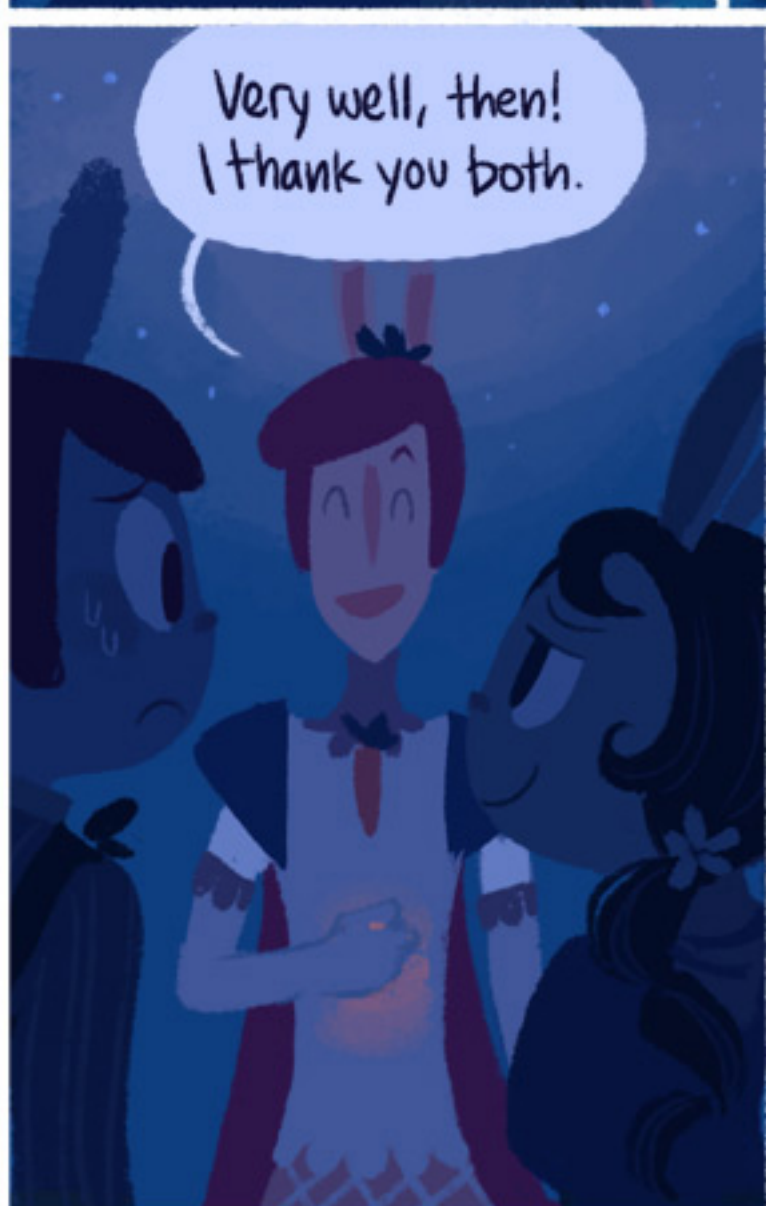


I was sort of at a loss for ideas...

... and then the Bakerette sisters found me and forced me into their shop...

Oh.







Oh la la



I wonder if
ze kingdom will
be all right.



But what
can I do,
trapped in
my room
like zis?

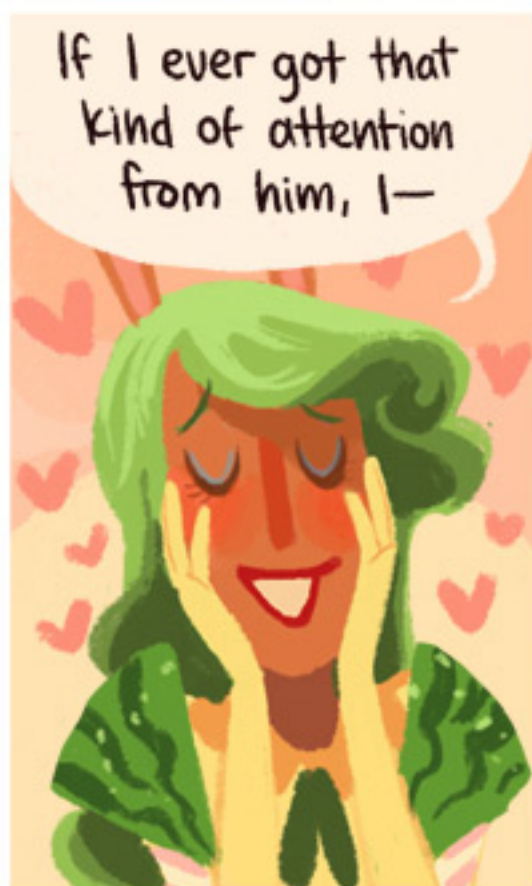
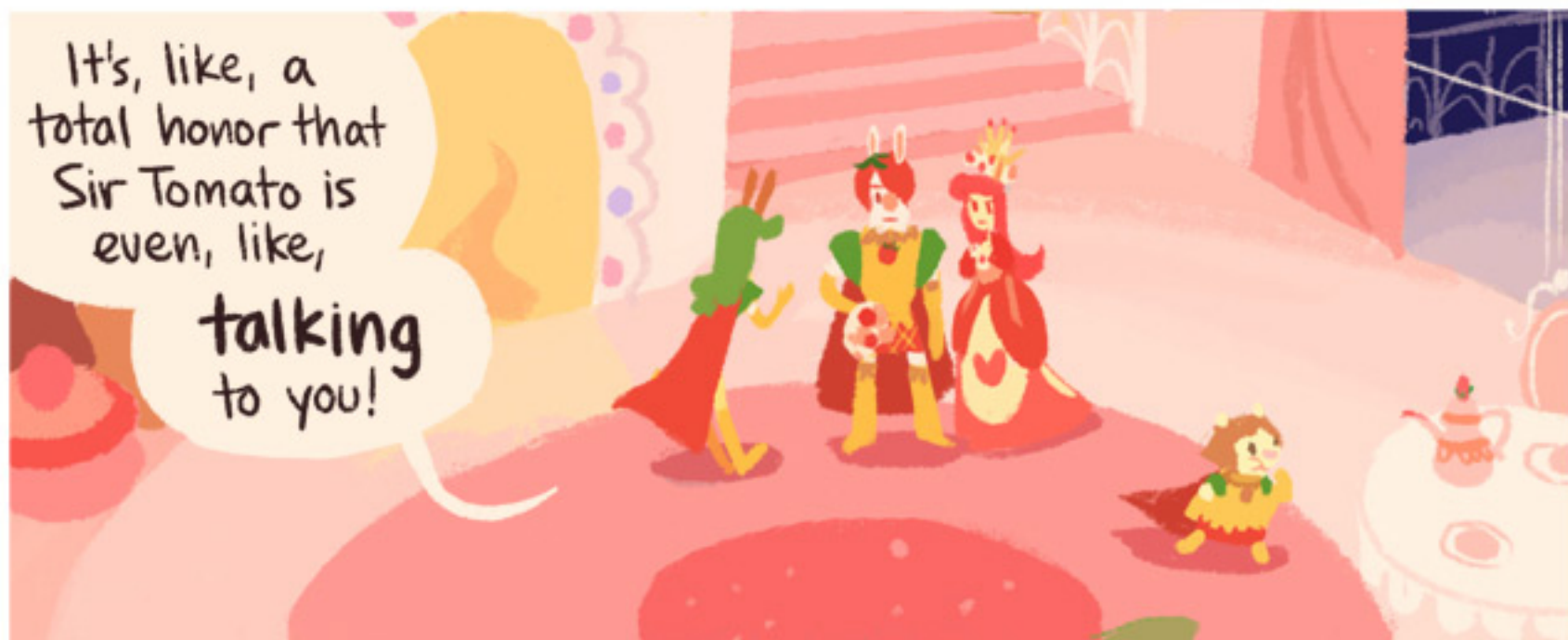


KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

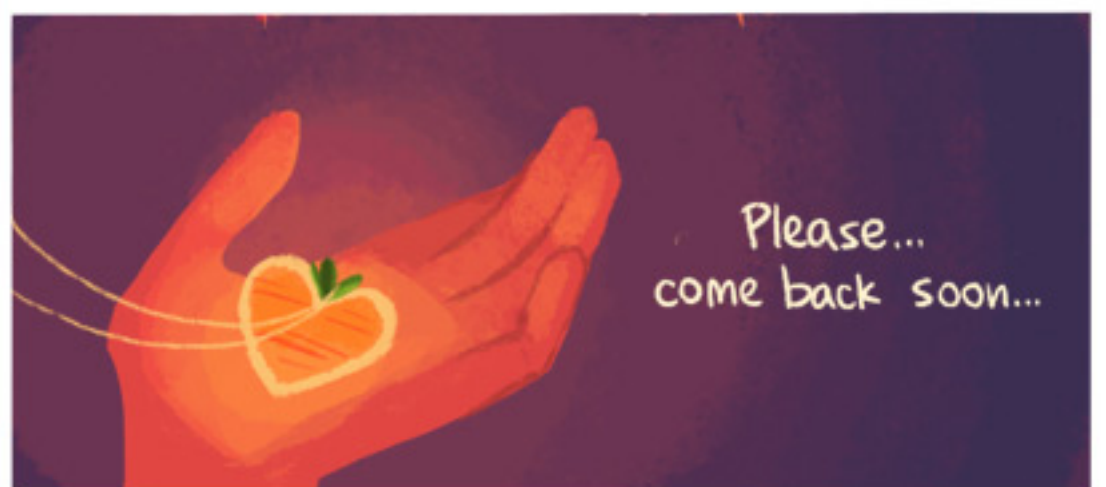
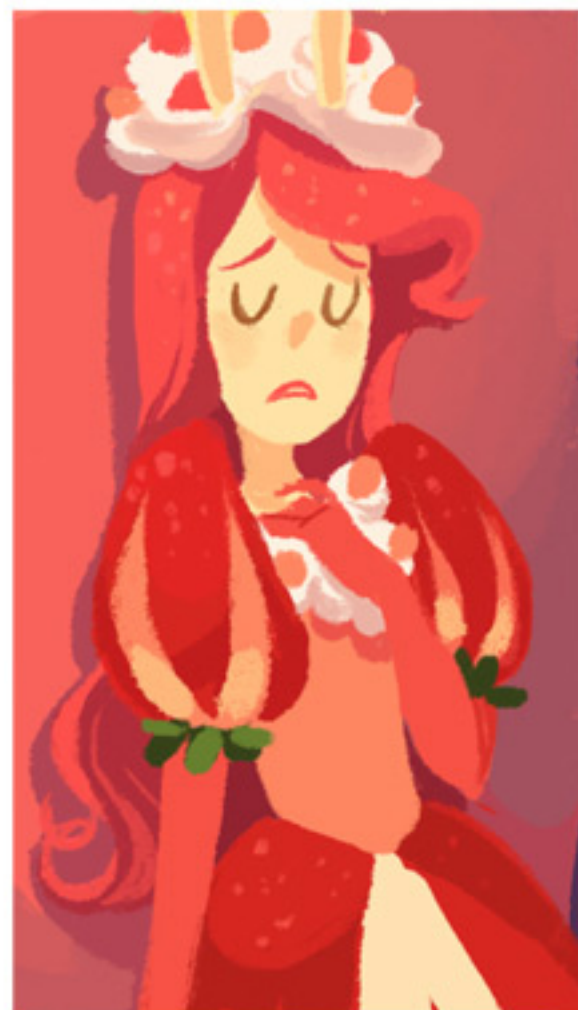


Oh, Princess!
Are you...
busy?









Tiramisu Tower

Phew!
Is this it?

It's... kind of obvious
for a thief's hideout.

Oh, we in the
Royal Guard have
known about this
tower for ages.

You... have?

Why didn't you
ever come raid
the place, then?

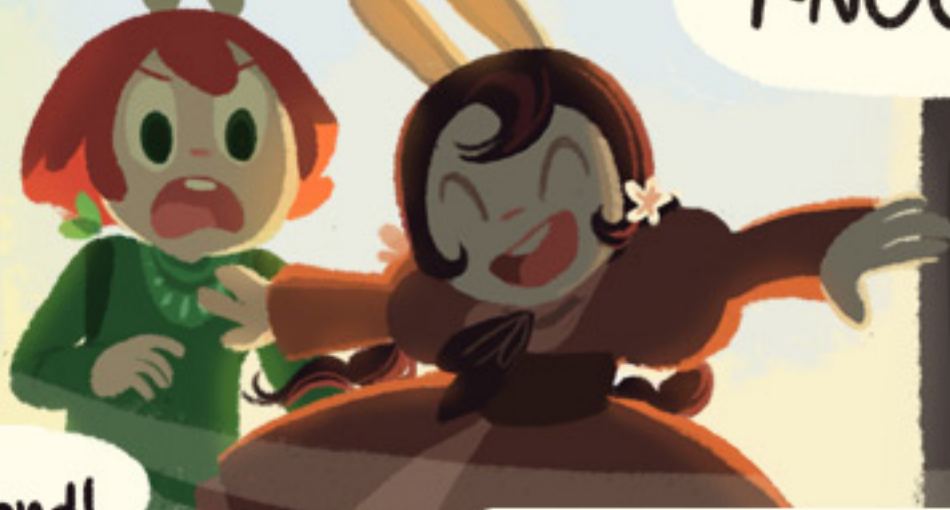
Well, it's such a long walk...
And it's so hot -

Never mind.



All right, Saturday,
time for **justice!**

**KNOCK
KNOCK!**



Almond!
You can't just —
Keep...











The Ripple Kingdom...

And I'm guessing she took the Dream Sword with her?



You're...

YES.

...really prepared, aren't you?

